

Soyuz and Apollo launched in perfect start to link-up

Two perfect launches by the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft yesterday made a promising start to the joint Soviet-American project, the first international mission in the space age. Mission directors at the launching sites in Baikonur, Soviet Kazakhstan, and at Cape Canaveral, Florida, watched each other's blast-offs, on television. Five minutes before the Apollo launch, Colonel Leonov, the Soyuz commander, wished the Americans a happy journey. "We'll be with you shortly," answered Brigadier-General Thomas Stafford.

Historic US-Soviet rescue 'rehearsal'

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Cape Canaveral, July 15

The Soviet-American space venture, which will culminate in the two nations' craft having a rendezvous 140 miles up on Thursday, got off to a perfect start yesterday.

The American Apollo, with Brigadier-General Thomas Stafford, Mr Vance Brand and Mr Donald Slayton on board was launched here seven and a half hours after Russia's Soyuz lifted off at Baikonur in Soviet Kazakhstan. In the Soviet spacecraft are Colonel Alexei Leonov and Mr Valeri Kibbasov.

It was the first time two vehicles had been built for launching deliberately on the same day for a collaborative venture. Hence, whatever else happened, once the countdown started the cosmonauts and astronauts were assured of recognition.

After years of discussion, the two great powers were endeavouring to perfect a universal rescue system for use should one or other of their craft become marooned in space. The idea of a rescue method was conceived by scientists and engineers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The translation of the idea into a project was born of a political motivation.

A joint enterprise labelled the Apollo-Soyuz test project was agreed on in May, 1972, during the Moscow-Kosygin negotiations on détente, which covered other schemes for science collaboration but more importantly — weapons limitations.

Whether this flight makes a lasting contribution to détente is a difficult question to decide. The reason for the two coun-

tries to collaborate in this sphere after many years of intense competition is not a straightforward matter.

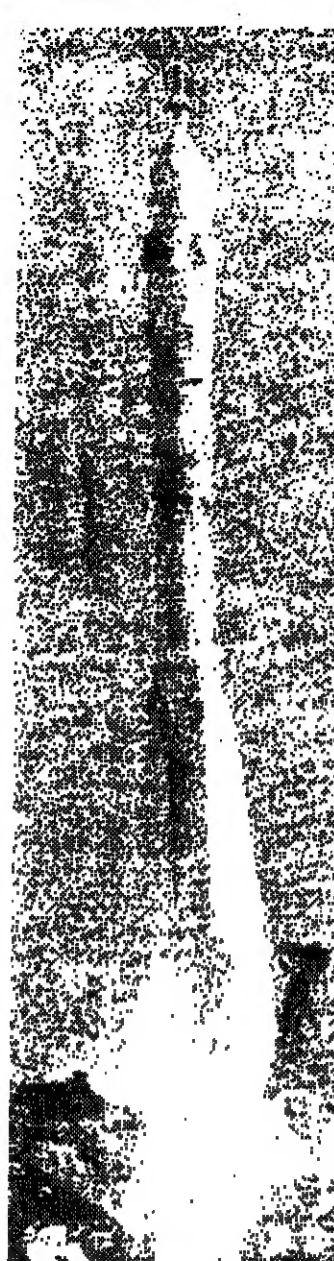
At the time the agreement was made the Russians were feeling a similar squeeze on money for their space programme similar to that which had affected the Americans earlier. In addition, the Soviet Union had experienced several setbacks in space, clearly denting its reputation in the field of advanced technology. Today, the Americans are impressed with their Russian colleagues.

Tracking teams monitoring the performance of the Soviet launch of Soyuz admired the smoothness with which Colonel Leonov, his flight engineer, Mr Kibbasov, went into orbit.

Within half an hour the Soviet and American control centres had established that the first of the two spacecraft to be sent into space from sites 600 miles apart was in a satisfactory orbit for manoeuvring into the rendezvous planned for Thursday.

Launch controllers at the Kennedy Space Centre here were visibly relieved as the preliminary details of the position of the Soyuz vehicle were calculated. Perhaps understandably, their relief did not extend to the boisterousness which accompanies one of their own launches: with seven and half hours between launches, the American controllers were tense.

Once established in space, the Russian cosmonauts passed a written message over the television link to the American controllers saying: "We the Soyuz crewmen are sending our greetings for a successful joint flight."



The Soyuz launching

Portuguese send more troops to Angola

Luanda, July 15.—Two Portuguese Air Force transports have arrived in Luanda with troops to help to control the fighting between rival Angolan liberation movements, a military spokesman said today.

He said the soldiers arrived yesterday to reinforce the local garrison which has been unable to stop six days of street battles between the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

The two parties, long-standing tribal and political enemies, have fought for supremacy of the heavily populated black slums and residential areas, using mortars, cannon and rocket fire. By yesterday the Popular Movement had gained the upper hand.

The spokesman did not say how many soldiers arrived. Portugal still has about 24,000 troops in Angola.

A Government spokesman said Major Melo Amores, Portuguese Foreign Minister, held informal talks with representatives of the three liberation movements jointly ruling Angola, the third is the neutral Angola National Union, but no details of the discussions were released.

Government sources said Major Antunes was trying to persuade the National Front to recall 5,000 of its soldiers marching on Luanda to renew the battle with the Popular Movement. An uneasy truce settled on Luanda today.

People were drifting back to work, but buses were not running and the city faced a food shortage because no supplies were coming in from the countryside. Shelves in grocery shops and supermarkets were almost empty and long queues formed outside bakeries.—UPI and Reuter.

Josephine writes from Lisbon. Aircraft are bringing refugees from Angola to arrive in Lisbon, bringing hundreds of white settlers and their families at a time. An airlift for 2,000 people a day is being organized by the Portuguese Air Force.

On leaving the airport, Swissair said today it would fly out 2,500 people.

Crowds are reported to be massed at Luanda airport waiting for aircraft to leave the country. About 400 people arrived in Lisbon this morning and another aircraft is expected tonight.

Those with nowhere to go are being directed, under the care of the Portuguese Red Cross team, to temporary housing south of Lisbon normally used by workers on holiday.

The political crisis in Portugal seems to be in suspense as the country's attention is absorbed by events in Angola.

After a long meeting of the Revolutionary Council yesterday a short communiqué announced merely that the council and the coordinating committee of the Armed Forces Movement had considered the situation.

On leaving the meeting, Major Costa Martin, the Minister of Labour, told reporters that it had also discussed the situation in the Azores, where recent disturbances had led to violence, the withdrawal of the Governor of the islands, and many arrests.

Mr Jenkins pleases policemen with 'sting in tail' of new procedure for complaints

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Policemen will be able to take civil court proceedings against complainants who make allegedly defamatory statements against them, Sergeant Leslie Male, chairman of the Police Federation, told me last night.

He was commenting on an announcement earlier by Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, of his new scheme for considering complaints against the police. The scheme, a Bill for which will be introduced by Mr Jenkins in the next session of Parliament, proposes an independent commission to hear complaints to a deputy chief constable decides not to start disciplinary proceedings against the officer or officers concerned.

One of the proposals in the scheme, details of which were given by Mr Jenkins in a parliamentary written reply yesterday, is:

Chief officers will be advised that they should supply any officer against whom a complaint has been made with a copy of the complaint after the case is closed. If the officer is not satisfied and has not been furnished with a copy during the course of dealing with the complaint (e.g. in connection with disciplinary proceedings), and if it would not be in the particular circumstances of the case be contrary to the public interest to do so.

That is interpreted by Sergeant Male to mean that policemen may take complaints to court. Under the Criminal Law Act, 1967, they can do that against a person who they think

has wasted their time and knowingly given false information about non-existent offences.

But that is a criminal offence, and they need consent and a certificate from the Director of Public Prosecutions in order to prosecute. They do so only rarely.

The proposed change in the law is the making available of the letter when no proceedings have been started against the officer. That is the sting in the tail of Mr Jenkins' announcement pleases the federation which feels that it gives a chance of retribution to innocent policemen who have been the subjects of complaint.

In essence the proposed scheme is as described in *The Times* last week. If the deputy chief constable takes the view that disciplinary proceedings should not be started the complaint will be examined by the commission, which will consider that view. It will have power in the last resort formally to require that disciplinary proceedings shall be brought.

All cases referred to the commission will be considered by a commissioner, not just by the commission staff.

Most disciplinary proceedings will be heard by a chief officer as at present; only in exceptional cases will they be heard by a tribunal. The commission will make the final choice.

Reference to the tribunal, which will comprise two members of the commission not previously concerned with the case

and the chief constable who would otherwise have sat alone to hear it, will depend on exceptional circumstances that might make it desirable in the public interest.

The tribunal will decide by a majority whether the charges have been proved. The chief officer will decide on punishment after taking account of any views expressed by other members of the tribunal.

The scheme follows three main principles set out by Mr Jenkins yesterday. Without impairing the purpose of the scheme, he said, "we should ensure that the initial investigation of complaints should remain in the hands of the police; that the chief officer's responsibility for the discipline of the force should not be undermined; and that no police officer should be in jeopardy twice in respect of the same complaint."

Last night both the Police Federation and the Superintendents' Association accepted that adherence to those principles had cleared the way for police acceptance of the scheme, although they are not convinced that the changes are necessary.

Mr Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, welcomed the introduction of an independent element in the police complaints procedure.

At first sight, however, the proposals seemed rather cumbersome, bureaucratic and expensive, he said.

Leading article, page 15

Egypt will not renew UN troops' mandate

Cairo, July 15.—Egypt today announced that it will not extend the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Sinai after it expires on July 24.

Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Foreign Minister, said the last extension of the mandate was intended to "afford peace every possible chance".

The decision was disclosed in a letter addressed to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, which was delivered by Egypt's representative to the United Nations, Mr Fahmy told a hurriedly summoned press conference.

Egypt, he said, "will not consent to further renewal of the mandate of the forces if no steps towards peace are taken. Israel has profited from the prevailing quiet to further its occupation rather than to assist the efforts aimed at achieving a lasting peace."

He explained to journalists that while Egypt would not consent to a further renewal of the mandate, it was "not against the proper use of the force. Egypt objects to the use of the force, and its presence, by Israel as a means to maintain the state of no-war-no-peace and the perpetuation of the occupation of Egyptian territory in defiance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and accepted norms of international law."

Asked repeatedly to explain what he meant by saying that Egypt did not object to the proper use of the force, Mr Fahmy said: "It means the Security Council should act according to its charter."

Asked if this meant the peace-keeping force could remain without a mandate, he replied: "Absolutely not. The force cannot remain without a mandate."

The Egyptian Minister continued: "Egypt will see to it that Israel will be checked in such a manner as to force it to reconsider its arrogant and expansionist policies in the area."

But he added that the American efforts to find a peaceful solution in the area would continue and that Egypt "welcomes all efforts from the United States or any other power to establish peace in the region".—AP.

Jerusalem, July 15.—Israel officials said tonight that they believed Egypt's refusal to extend the life of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Sinai was intended to put pressure on Israel to make greater concessions in the talks for an agreement.

The Foreign Ministry said it would not comment officially on the Cairo announcement until an accurate and complete report was received.—AP.

Patrick Brogan writes from Washington. Dr Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State was asked for a spot reaction to the news that the Egyptians would not renew the United Nations mandate. He said that he would have to study the report, which had not reached him, but that the event illustrated how precarious peace was in the Middle East.

MPs' pay ruling imminent

By David Wood
Political Editor

Mr Wilson and the Cabinet at last arrived at their tortuous and politically embarrassing decision on increased pay and allowances for MPs yesterday. Today, in the Commons, in the absence of the Prime Minister, Mr Short, Leader of the House, will make the long-awaited announcement.

No backbencher any longer dares to hope, much less expect, that the independent Boyce review committee's recommendations will prove to have been accepted. Forced to choose between outraging many Labour backbenchers or putting the £6 a week incomes freeze in jeopardy, the Cabinet had no room for manoeuvre.

At Westminster last night it was widely assumed that the rise in salary will be modest but that the bitter pill will be sweetened by an increased electoral allowance (now £1,750), better pensions for retired MPs and their widows, and perhaps a promise of eventually pegging parliamentary salaries to a Civil Service scale so that increases would be automatic and less invidious.

It remains to be seen whether the Cabinet in the end decide to appease the TUC and public opinion by volunteering a cut of £2,000 in their own salaries of £13,000.

The Government's party managers have for some time

Continued on page 2, col 1

Land Bill concession to churches and charities

John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government yesterday agreed to exempt churches and charities from the main provisions of the Community Land Bill.

The decision was announced by Mr Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, at the final session of the Commons standing committee on the Bill, churches and charities, supported by opposition parties, have been pressing for the change.

During the period that local authorities are required to purchase all development land themselves, or for at least 10 years, whichever is the longer, churches and charities will be exempt from the development land tax, which is intended to

rise in stages from 80 to 100 per cent. If their land is acquired during that period they will receive the full market value.

After that they will be paid what is called the prevailing use value, which appears to mean the value assessed on the basis of what similar land in the district is reckoned to be worth: in other words, virtually its market value.

If, for instance, a disused church was acquired by a local authority compensation would be based on its value not as a disused church but as a potential development site.

The Government intends, however, that wherever possible churches and charities should be left to develop land for their own use without local authori-

ties intervening. Councils would still have powers of acquisition but Mr Silkin said he would not expect them to exercise them unless there were special planning reasons.

The main reason for the Government's previous reluctance to give way on the issue was its belief that certain charitable foundations, such as some Oxford and Cambridge colleges, were too wealthy to deserve exemption. Now it has clearly decided that to try to draw distinctions would be invidious.

"The Government accepts that charities are in a unique position," Mr Silkin said yesterday. "Traditionally, many have provided services to the community that would other-

wise have had to be provided by central or local government."

"The problem when one is aiming at a wide social objective—that land values created by the community should be enjoyed by the community—has been to avoid damage to the more individual social objectives in the process."

After the announcement, Mr Hugh Rossi, Conservative spokesman on housing and land, said the Government had made a big retreat. It had accepted that charities were in a unique position.

The statement was a token of the great campaign waged by churches for the past few months. The Conservatives were delighted that the concessions would apply to all charities as well.

Miners may follow EUR in packing package

A moderate-dominated executive of the National Union of Mineworkers is expected to support the Government's pay package tomorrow.

The National Union of Railwaysmen reported the measures after Mr Sidney Jephell, general secretary of the union, had said that he would not wait to be said that about government in need of help had been "checked in the teeth" by the union. He said plans were prepared to see the Labour Party

Argentina threat

Argentine workers are threatening a new wave of strikes over the doubling of some prices. Increases have engulfed wage improvements granted by Senora Peron's government rendered to workers' demands, though she earlier vetoed the pay rises of up to 130 per cent.

reig leads England

Gray, of Sussex, who was born in South Africa, has been appointed England's captain for the three remaining Test matches against Australia. He succeeds Michael Denness, of whom he has led England in 18 of their last Tests.

Side complicity charge: A spinster, aged 55, appeared at Leeds Crown Court yesterday charged with helping her older sister to commit suicide.

versities' treatment: Mr St John-Stevens, opposition spokesman on education, yesterday criticized the Government for seeking to drive university freedom.

sk-drive curbs: Mr Gilbert, Minister for transport, yesterday promised tougher action against motorists who commit drink and driving offences.

challenge: The Senate votes against President Ford's decision to phase out controls on domestically produced oil.

can détente: Mr Dona-Folgo, the Ivory Coast Minister of Information, is to pay an official visit to South Africa next month.

News
Main News
Local News
Sport
Features
Class List
Court
Crossword
Diary
Engagements
Features

EEC summit to focus on raw material supply

Britain's main objective at the European summit, which opens in Brussels today, is to carry the discussions on raw material supplies another stage forward. It is the first summit attended by British ministers when Britain is not asking for special favours. In this sense, Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan approach the meeting with a firm tread and a light heart.

Gas price rise rejected

Signs of a consumers' revolt against higher charges by state industries came yesterday when the National Gas Consumers' Council rejected proposed 20 per cent increases in domestic prices, and the Post Office Users' National Council started talks on the dearer postal and telephone charges.

Leader, page 15

Letters: On the prices and incomes policy, from Professor J. K. Galbraith; squatters and the law, from Mr Robert Morgan; and others. Squatters: Complaints against the police. Features, pages 13, 14

Grams Zellick on the difficulties facing the Home Secretary over prisoners' letters; Andrew Murray on the way the Afghanists have the Russians over a barrel.

Diary, page 14
Why people get fat and what they can do about it. Arts, page 7

Melinda Camber on Costa-Gavras's new film; Jeffery Daniels on drawings by Rodney Hubbard; Irving Warrle on *Ghosts* (Hamstead Theatre); Sport, pages 8 and 9

Racing: Kempton Park and Redcar prospects; Yachting: Fading winds disrupt Quarter Ton Cup races; show jumping: Royal Show winners triumph again; Cycling: Mercier crashes in Tour de France. Obituary, page 17

Josef Lengyel, Professor Ernő Rádlóczy, Mr C. H. Ellis. Business News, pages 18-23

Stock Markets: Equities rallied from Monday's falls but trading was light and speculative. The FT index closed 7.2 better. Editor: Wilkinson March's recovery prospects; justifying Pilkington's rating; diversification pointers from Hawker Siddeley.

Business features: "The ironies of the waste paper mountain" are discussed by Edward Townsend; Eynon Smart reports on Britain's quietly successful sponsored team makers.

Business Diary: The team behind the Office of Fair Trading's comprehensive document on "bargain" offers.

SAS controversy reopened by pistol discovery in Ulster

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The protracted controversy about the alleged presence of members of the Special Air Service in Northern Ireland has been reopened by the disclosure that a plain-clothes soldier driving in Falls Road recently was carrying an American-made Ingram M10 sub-machine pistol.

In February the Ministry of Defence stated that fewer than 100 of the weapons, which is about half the size of the conventional army sub-machine gun, had been issued and only to the SAS and the Royal Marines Special Boat Service.

That statement is now said to be inaccurate.

At the time it was emphasized that the gun had been bought by the Army for specialist purposes and that it had not been used in Northern Ireland. Flashed with a silencer and a flash guard, the Ingram M10 is a 9mm weapon which is said to

be well suited for undercover operations.

Last week one of the guns was seized from the car of a plain-clothes soldier which was involved in a traffic accident on Falls Road and later burnt by an angry crowd. In Dublin on Monday the official IRA produced photographs of the pistol, which they said had been found under a coat in the soldier's car. That is not denied by the Army.

The allegation has embarrassed the British authorities. It comes at a sensitive period in the continuing ceasefire. A spokesman at Lisburn said yesterday: "The statement issued on February 5 was inaccurate because it was discovered afterwards that the weapon had been issued to other units in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland as well as to the SAS."

Later a senior official at the Ministry of Defence in London confirmed that the original information about the issue of the Ingram M10 had been inaccurate, although he still maintained that fewer than 100 had been purchased.

The official explained that after the initial statement it was found that one of the guns had been used by the Army in Northern Ireland before February. He added:

A certain number of these guns have been issued in Northern Ireland where there is a case for them. They are a very handy weapon and have been issued on an individual basis rather than to particular units. It is completely erroneous to link the gun with the SAS who, as we have stated repeatedly before, do not operate in Ulster.

According to an identity card seized by the IRA, the soldier involved in the Falls Road incident was Staff Captain C. G. Eider, whose serial number is 24126906. He maintains that he was on a spying mission and that other equipment captured from his car included a book containing the names of 51 suspected Provisionals.

It also produced a tape recording made at the time of the accident which are alleged to have come from the army radio network. On one a man with a Scottish accent is heard to say: "This is a very sensitive situation, to the car which is involved."

The initial disclosure that the Army had bought a few M10s followed the publication of 1975 armament manuals.

Other Irish news, page 2



The Ingram M10 sub-machine pistol.

Iceland extends fishing limit by 150 miles

Reykjavik, July 15.—The Icelandic Government announced today that it would extend its fisheries limit from 50 miles to 200 miles starting on October 15.

The regulation, published by the Icelandic Fisheries Ministry, said that all foreign fishing vessels would be prohibited from fishing inside the 200-

mile limit. But Mr Matthias Bjarnason, the Fisheries Minister, told a press conference: "We are ready to talk with other nations who have interests in the matter."

An announcement unilaterally extending Iceland's fisheries limit had been expected for some time. Mr Geir Hallgrims-

son, the Prime Minister, admitted earlier that the extension might meet international opposition. "But," he added, "we have experienced such opposition."

Iceland and Britain engaged in a bitter "cod war" after Iceland extended its limit from 12 to 50 nautical miles in 1972.—Reuter.

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HOME NEWS

Tougher laws against drink-and-driving offences are promised

By Our Motoring Correspondent

Tougher action against motorists who drink and drive was promised yesterday by Mr. Gilbert, the Minister for Transport. He said there were too many loopholes in the law and he was determined to do something about it. He added:

"I am sick and tired of the man who has been convicted of drink-driving and driving being the object of sympathy among his friends. He should be regarded as a highly dangerous criminal."

Between the ages of 16 and 24, drunken driving was the biggest single killer in Britain, he said.

Mr. Gilbert said the Blennerhassett committee, set up by the Government last year to review the drink-and-driving law, had finished taking evidence and he expected to receive its report in the autumn.

Giving his first press conference since his appointment a month ago, Mr. Gilbert said he also attached great importance to the wearing of seat belts. Because of the crowded parliamentary timetable, however, legislation was unlikely in the present session.

Mr. Gilbert said he had sympathy with the driver who had lost his licence as a result of convictions under the 50 mph and 60 mph speed limits, which had been introduced to save fuel rather than as a safety measure. A survey was being conducted to see whether the limits were effective.

Promising a "fresh look at the whole question of driving tuition and examining," Mr. Gilbert said he was prepared to consider a stiffer driving test. He was thinking of making the use of dipped headlights at night in built-up areas compulsory over a trial period.

New high-performance car from Jensen

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Jensen Motors, the West Bromwich-based specialist car maker, today announces a new high performance coupe/estate, the Jensen GT. It is mechanically similar to the Jensen-Healey soft-topped sports car, with a 2000 cc engine, but is withdrawn from production.

The GT has two full seats, with two smaller seats at the back suitable for children. A top-hinged luggage rack gives access to the luggage area, which can be increased from 10 to 17 cu ft by folding down the back seats. There is additional space for small items underneath the floor.

The car uses the same two-litre Lotus engine as the Jensen-Healey, and being only

100lb heavier is said to give virtually the same performance and fuel economy. The Healey has a top speed of 115 mph and a touring fuel consumption of about 25 mpg.

The specification includes a German-made five-speed gearbox, power-screen wash and electrically operated windows, and full carpeting. Air conditioning is available as an optional extra.

Production will start at 25 a week, building up to 40. It is expected that, like the other Jensen models, most GTs will be sold in the United States as the principal market. The price in Britain is £4,198.

Jensen plans to launch an improved version of the Healey towards the end of the year.

Cheaper rail travel for wheelchair users

By Our Transport Correspondent

New facilities and cheaper fares for wheelchair users are announced by British Rail today. On most trains they must still travel in the guard's van but from now on both they and one attendant will pay only half-fare.

On new coaches coming into service on the London Midlands route, and on others later, special facilities are provided in the form of a removable seat and table at the end of each coach to make space for a wheelchair. The disabled traveller and his attendant will pay only the second-class fare, however.

Intending travellers must still get permits to travel in the guard's van and are advised to give at least 48 hours' notice.

Wealthy wife stole 96 garments in store

The wife of a wealthy director of a Kuwait finance company filled four large carrier bags with 96 garments at the Marble Arch branch of Marks and Spencer, it was stated at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Mrs. Anissa Abul Hassan, aged 40, who admitted stealing the clothes valued at £1,200, was helped by two of her eight children, Mr. James Bulfin, for the prosecution, said.

She was fined the maximum of £400 with £20 costs. Mr. St. John Harmsworth, the magistrate, said he only regretted that he could not impose a larger fine.

Mrs. Hassan was said to be staying at a £70 a week flat in Drummond Street, Euston. Police constable Richard Rogers said her husband was a millionaire who had brought his family to London while he received medical treatment.

Man hanged in cell

John David Shield, aged 19, of Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, was found hanged in a cell at the Home Office remand centre at Risley, near Warrington, yesterday, less than 24 hours after being admitted following convictions for driving offences.

Larger payments urged for council home redecoration

By Our Planning Reporter

A uniform and realistic system of financial allowances to enable London council tenants to carry out internal redecoration and minor repairs to their homes is advocated in a report published today by the Shelter Housing Aid Centre (Shac).

The report finds wide differences between London boroughs. Brent council reckons to save £13,000 a month on its housing budget by allowing families to move into underdecorated flats and houses, and giving them an allowance to do the work themselves.

In Camden, where a similar system exists, the average time a property stands empty between tenants is six weeks. But in Tower Hamlets, where

In brief

Prince says 'We need the money'

The Prince of Wales yesterday called for better quality Welsh products to help exports, and said: "My God, we need the money." It was on the second day of his two-day visit to Gwent.

He presented awards at Newport to winners of the Design Council competition. "Things to Buy from Wales." "I hope this award will stimulate even further efforts to produce higher standards for Welsh products."

Butlin divorce suit

Sir William Butlin, aged 75, founder of the holiday camp company, is seeking a divorce. His wife, Nora, formerly his sister-in-law, is not defending the case. They married in 1959.

Lionel Bart banned

Lionel Bart, aged 44, the composer, was fined £40 and banned from driving for a year at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday after pleading guilty to driving with excess alcohol in his blood on May 7.

Vaccination rush

Because so many people are seeking vaccination before their holidays, stocks of typhoid vaccine have been running short in some areas, but the Department of Health said yesterday there was no shortage nationally.

Newspaper peace

Journalists of the *Evening Telegraph*, at Kettering, yesterday ended industrial action against a proposed six-month freeze on expenses on the management's agreement that the issue should go to arbitration.

School to take girls

Blundell's School, at Tiverton, Devon, is opening its doors to girls next term. It is planned to take 24 day girls in the sixth form within two years.

Clan heir for trial

Malcolm Colquhoun, aged 28, heir to the chief of the Colquhoun clan, was sent for trial on bail from Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday on charges of dishonestly handling stolen airline tickets.

Hose ban stays

The South West Water Authority is retaining its ban on the use of hoses despite heavy rain.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS



New fresco: A fresco, believed to be of the Leonardo da Vinci school, has been discovered in St Mark's Church, Milan. The fresco portrays the Virgin Mary and the holy child with St. John the Baptist. It was painted in a single light colour against a dark background and was concealed beneath a seventeenth-century portrait of St. Barbara in the Romanesque-Gothic church, once the burial place of the Milanese nobility. Several frescoes have been uncovered in St Mark's in the past 20 years and it is thought there are still others which were painted over in the seventeenth-century during plague. It was thought frescoes encouraged contagion.

century portrait of St. Barbara in the Romanesque-Gothic church, once the burial place of the Milanese nobility. Several frescoes have been uncovered in St Mark's in the past 20 years and it is thought there are still others which were painted over in the seventeenth-century during plague. It was thought frescoes encouraged contagion.

Israelis refuse to be rushed

From Eric Marsden

Jerusalem, July 15

The pace of peace talks has noticeably slowed down in the past week. This is regarded in Israel as a quiet victory over Dr. Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, who has been attempting to prod Israel into giving up the Sinai passes and the Abu Rodeis oilfields without parallel concessions by Egypt.

Leading articles in the Israeli press point out that the deadline set by President Ford for progress towards a settlement, without which the United States would put forward proposals for an overall settlement, has passed without any such consequences.

It is now believed that Mr. Ford will not carry out his threat, at least for the moment, as he and Dr. Kissinger have realized that Israel cannot be coerced into quick decisions. As one newspaper puts it, "because Mr. Rabin has kept his cool, Dr. Kissinger has stopped uttering threats."

There is some concern at the negative reaction in the United States and Europe to the com-

ment of Mr. Rabin, the Prime Minister of Israel, that the negotiations for an interim settlement might take "weeks or even months". This, it is felt, has been wrongly interpreted as a sign that Israel is dragging its feet, but the view in Jerusalem is that the delay is caused by Egypt's failure to state what it is prepared to offer in return for the passes and the oilfields.

It now seems unlikely that Mr. Dinitz, the Ambassador of Israel in Washington, will receive further information on Egypt's position from Dr. Kissinger in time for the Cabinet session this weekend, so the next "crucial" meeting will be further delayed.

Mr. Rabin has good reasons for proceeding cautiously, as shown by the demonstrations against a withdrawal in Sinai held in Tel Aviv last night. They continued until after midnight and had to be broken up by the police after stones had been thrown at the American Embassy and a window was broken.

Dr. Kissinger was the main target of the demonstrators' wrath. Posters with his picture asked: "With friends like this, who needs enemies?" Messages of support were telephoned from Abu Rodeis, Sharm el Sheikh and the Golan Heights to the Post Office.

The demonstration, organized by the Likud Opposition and led by the Gush Emmunim group dedicated to Jewish settlement throughout the occupied Arab areas, also attracted sympathy from government supporters.

The strength of the anti-withdrawal group in the Labour Party is not yet clear. There is speculation that if Mr. Peres, the Defence Minister, and his colleague and predecessor Mr. Moshe Dayan were to oppose a settlement based on withdrawal, it would not achieve a Knesset majority.

Israel is still not short of optimists. The *Jerusalem Post* today carries an advertisement for oil drilling and production workers for jobs in Abu Rodeis, saying that experience is not essential. The length of the contract offered is not mentioned.

Arabs protest against EEC condemnation of terrorism

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, July 15

A new threat to European Arab relations emerged today in the form of an unexpectedly strong Arab protest against last Thursday's condemnation by the European Parliament of the bomb attack in Jerusalem earlier this month, for which the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) claimed responsibility.

The Iraqi, Algerian and Moroccan ambassadors to the European Economic Community delivered the protest at meetings with M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, president of the Commission, and with the Italian chairman of the committee of permanent representatives of the Nine in Brussels. The ambassadors asked for clarification of the EEC position.

Commission officials declined to comment publicly on the Arab protest, but it is thought likely that EEC foreign ministers and heads of government may wish to consider the appropriateness of making some soothing noises for Arab ears during their meetings in Brussels this week.

"We are completely surprised to see such a categorical and exclusive condemnation of what we consider to be legitimate self-defence, particularly on occupied Palestinian territory," Mr. Messoud Ait Chahal, the Algerian Ambassador, told reporters after his meeting with M. Ortoli.

"We are surprised that the bomb attack was described as terrorism. The most shocking thing was that the (Parliamentary) resolution did not mention terrorism by Israel, including daily punitive attacks by Israel," Mr. Chahal added.

But when the architect went to the mayor's office the day his daughter was born last March to register the name, the official demurred. He telephoned the public prosecutor's office, which in France has ultimate responsibility in these weighty matters. That is not a "first name," came the reply.

When the case reached the Paris Court of Justice, the judge accepted that there were already names like Myrtille (the humble bilberry), and conceded that Bergamote sounded well enough. He decided that there was no reason why the child should not have it, on one condition—the name had to be accompanied by more conventional names.

The case was amicably settled with the girl officially registered as Bergamote Céline.

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Mr Wilson goes with firm tread and light heart to EEC summit

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's main objective at the European summit, which opens in Brussels today, is to carry the discussion on the worldwide supply of raw materials another stage forward. It is the first summit that British ministers have attended when they have not been asking for special favours or waiting on some previous request in this case.

Mr. Callaghan approached the meeting with a firm tread and a light heart.

Not that there is any great sign in London, as Mr. Leo Tindemann, the Belgian Prime Minister, claimed to find, of a new European spirit. The Government's watchword is caution, to "seize any opportunities which present themselves, taking account of what is and what is not politically and economically possible for each of us" as the Foreign Secretary has put it.

Internally, the British aim is to help to make the Community work more effectively and efficiently. This means concentrating on the smooth operation of the Council of Ministers and not launching reforms. The question of direct elections to the European Parliament is still under study.

Externally, the British are genuinely delighted at the strides which the Community has taken in the past year. A whole series of common positions has been agreed on, among them the trade convention with developing countries, the Israel agreement, the start of the European-Arab dialogue, the preparation of the

European security conference, negotiations with countries as diverse as Canada, Mexico and Iran, and progress on a common trade policy.

"It's becoming a habit doing things together," is the official view in Whitehall, "and a very good habit it is." Such a comment illustrates how far Britain has come to accept its new place in the world, as part of the European Community.

It is to go still further, this new approach which explains British support for working out a Community position on commodities. This subject in the wider context of improving the trading and economic prospects of the Third World, is going to be a main theme of international diplomacy later this year. The British position is that if there is to be any hope of making progress, the Nine must act together.

Sir Donald Maitland, Britain's next permanent representative at the EEC, who has been taking part in Commonwealth discussions on this topic in Ottawa, is flying over specially to attend the summit. The Commonwealth experts' report, to be presented to the finance ministers in August, is seen as an important adjunct to the community's work.

As for the ideas contained in Mr. Wilson's own plan for a new general agreement on commodities they may form part of the Community's overall studies. The attention now being paid in the Brussels discussions to the common position on commodity agreements and the emphasis placed on helping the poorest among the developing countries accord well with the British initiative.

Preparations for the third yearly summit or "European Council", as it is now called, begin in earnest tomorrow. The summit, which the finance ministers will take a final look at the proposed agenda. The star item is expected to be discussion of the economic and monetary situation confronting the Community.

The foreign policy context of the summit is also being discussed. EEC officials today confirm a report from Athens in *The Times* that the Greek Government had asked the Community to use its good offices with Ankara. The Greeks were worried about possible military action by the Turks in Cyprus. The officials said, "But the Community had not yet decided how to react to the request."

And beyond that, such acts, because they are too public, too inflexible and too much a stimulus to nationalistic resentment are almost inevitably doomed to fail."

Dr. Kissinger did not name the Jackson amendment, which seeks to tie the development of trade between the United States and Russia to a liberalization of Soviet emigration policies, but this is clearly what he had in mind when he said that America would be mindful of the limits of its reach. "We will be conscious of the difference between public postures that satisfy our self-esteem and policies that bring positive results."

He also gave an account of the case for détente with the Soviet Union. It was rather more defensive in tone than earlier discourses on the subject.

Dr Kissinger's warning to idealists on policy

From Patrick Brogan

Bloomington, Minnesota, July 15

Dr. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, took his Republican lead in the Midwest today, and told an audience of Minnesota businessmen that idealists should not interfere with foreign policy and that acts of Congress carried little weight outside the United States.

He said that there were only a score of democracies in the world, and that American national interests demanded that the United States should have close relations with many non-democratic states.

Alluding, without naming them, to Turkey and the Soviet Union, which had been affected greatly by the wishes of Congress to Greece and Portugal, he said: "Our alliances and political relationships serve mutual ends."

"They contribute to regional and world security, and thus support the broader welfare. They are not favours to other governments, but rather a recognition of mutual interests. They should be withdrawn only when our interests change and not as a punishment of some act with which we do not agree."

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Dr Kissinger's warning to idealists on policy

American withdrawal diminished its ability to influence domestic practices. "The attempt to deal with those practices by restrictive American legislation raises a serious problem, not because of the moral view it expresses, which we share, but because of the mistaken impression it creates that our security ties are acts of charity."

And beyond that, such acts, because they are too public, too inflexible and too much a stimulus to nationalistic resentment are almost inevitably doomed to fail."

Dr. Kissinger did not name the Jackson amendment, which seeks to tie the development of trade between the United States and Russia to a liberalization of Soviet emigration policies, but this is clearly what he had in mind when he said that America would be mindful of the limits of its reach. "We will be conscious of the difference between public postures that satisfy our self-esteem and policies that bring positive results."

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Mexico signs trade pact with Nine

From David Cross

Brussels, July 15

Foreign ministers of the Nine today began three days of high level EEC deliberations in Brussels with the signing of the Community's first commercial cooperation agreement with Latin American countries.

A new non-preferential agreement with Mexico, modelled along the lines of the 1972 pact with India, is part designed to reduce Mexico's economic dependence on the United States by establishing closer trade and cooperation ties with the Community.

In the view of Señor Emilio Rabasa, the Mexican Foreign Minister, who signed his part of the agreement in Brussels today, it provides "the means for

Mexico trade pact Nine

Argentina faces more strikes as rising prices devour pay increases

Buenos Aires, July 15.—Argentine workers angered by price increases today threatened a new wave of strikes against the Government of President Isabel Peron.

Thousands of car workers were reported to be angry over the dismissal last night of 300 men who took part in an unofficial strike at a Ford plant in the outskirts of the capital.

The Ford workers—and thousands of others in the paper, chemical and sugar industries as well as telephone technicians and some employees in Government departments—say the huge wage increases recently conceded by the Government have already been devoured by price rises of up to 300 per cent in the past month.

Trade union sources did not rule out the possibility that the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) might call another general strike, like the one which briefly paralysed the country last week.

That strike was called off after Senator Peron surrendered to workers' demands for a week ago and authorized pay rises of up to 130 per cent.

Even before those rises have been paid in full, workers' leaders are arguing that they have been overtaken by spiralling prices. Official price increases announced yesterday doubled the cost of cigarettes,

telephone calls and postal services.

To make matters worse there are persistent reports from semi-official sources that Senator Celestino Rodrigo, the Economy Minister, is planning a new devaluation of the peso, of between 10 and 25 per cent, on top of the 50 per cent devaluation decreed on June 4 which started the current crisis.

Influential union leaders, opposition politicians and many members of the ruling Peronist movement are all demanding the dismissal of Senator Rodrigo, surprisingly retained when Señora Peron reshuffled her Cabinet last Friday.

"Apart from his economic 'shock treatment', Senator Rodrigo is unpopular because he is generally considered a henchman of Senator José Lopez Rega, the ousted Social Welfare Minister.

Senator Rodolfo Carlier, the mayor of La Plata, a major industrial centre south-east of Buenos Aires, was murdered by gunmen in a suburb here last night, police sources said.

Carlier, a prominent member of the Peronist labour movement, was killed by bursts of automatic fire when his car was intercepted by two other vehicles as he was being driven home. The mayor was believed to have been in contact with leaders of the C.G.T.—Reuter.

Bolivian labour leaders held for 'plotting'

La Paz, July 15.—The Bolivian authorities have arrested about 30 trade union leaders and sympathizers, including three Spanish nuns, on charges of taking part in a "subversive plot" designed to start a general strike against the ruling government of General Hugo Banzer.

Colonel Juan Pereda, the Interior Minister, told a press conference last night that the union officials were leaders of the Bolivian Labour Centre, which grouped together all the main trade unions until it was outlawed when President Banzer appointed an all-military Cabinet last year.

He accused trade union organizations in Argentina, Chile, East Germany and Czechoslovakia of sending funds to aid the organization of the general strike, due to take place in August.

The plotters, he said, were arrested as they met in Oruro, 70 miles south-east of La Paz, in Saturday.

Meanwhile, President Banzer said the Bolivian armed forces would be ready to turn over power to civilians by 1980, after general elections in which all parties except extremists would be able to take part.

The President said in an interview last night: "Given the experience of the last 25 years, the period from now to 1980 is a reasonable time during which the political organizations can group, define their ideological line, and work out concrete governmental programmes.

"Under such conditions, we can call elections, and the armed forces will turn over power to whoever is elected. Before 1980, the Bolivian political parties will have a reasonable period without democracy. The (present) political parties left Bolivia with a bad taste."

But General Banzer added that even after turning over power to civilians, the military would remain present in the country's life as a guiding institution for the fatherland.

When asked why the mass media did not offer basic criticisms of the present military regime and why workers and students create no problems, the Bolivian leader said: "The press has the habit of criticizing certain aspects of official policy—sometimes bitterly—and all newsmen realize that our government has never exercised censorship or repressed free thought."—Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Senate defies Mr Ford over oil price controls

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, July 15

The Senate voted today to extend by six months the price controls on domestically produced oil.

The vote came 24 hours after President Ford announced that he would send a Bill to Congress this week to bring about the gradual phasing out of controls. The White House yesterday announced that the President would veto an extension of controls.

The Senate's decision, which could lead to about 60 per cent of United States oil production being pegged at \$5.25 (about £2.50) a barrel for a further half year beyond August 31, is a clear indication of the strength of opposition in the Congress to the President's plan.

Today's voice vote of 62 to 29, taken without a debate, is the first round in what will be a bitter battle between the Administration and Congress.

The President's Bill will probably be presented to Congress tomorrow. Congressmen will then try to kill it before it gets off the ground by passing a resolution against it.

The Mobil Oil Corporation went on the offensive today with a heavy attack on those who claim that it is manipulating the oil market to make excessive profits.

The company declared that its recent price increases are the result solely of United States Government controls and of the fact that the company "is paying higher prices today for crude oil than at any time in the last 50 years."

The blunt and lengthy statement by Mobil came after charges by Senators Jackson and Stevenson that oil companies were creating shortages "through manipulation of refinery output so they could raise retail prices."

Stonehouse return expected tomorrow

Melbourne, July 15.—Mr John Stonehouse, a former Australian Government Minister, is expected to be extradited from Australia to Britain within the next 48 hours to face criminal charges of theft and conspiracy.

Australia's Attorney General is due to sign extradition warrants in Canberra tomorrow morning. They will be delivered to Chief Superintendent Kenneth Etheridge, Deputy Commander of Scotland Yard's raid squad. Mr Stonehouse and Mrs Buckley are likely to be flown to London on Thursday.

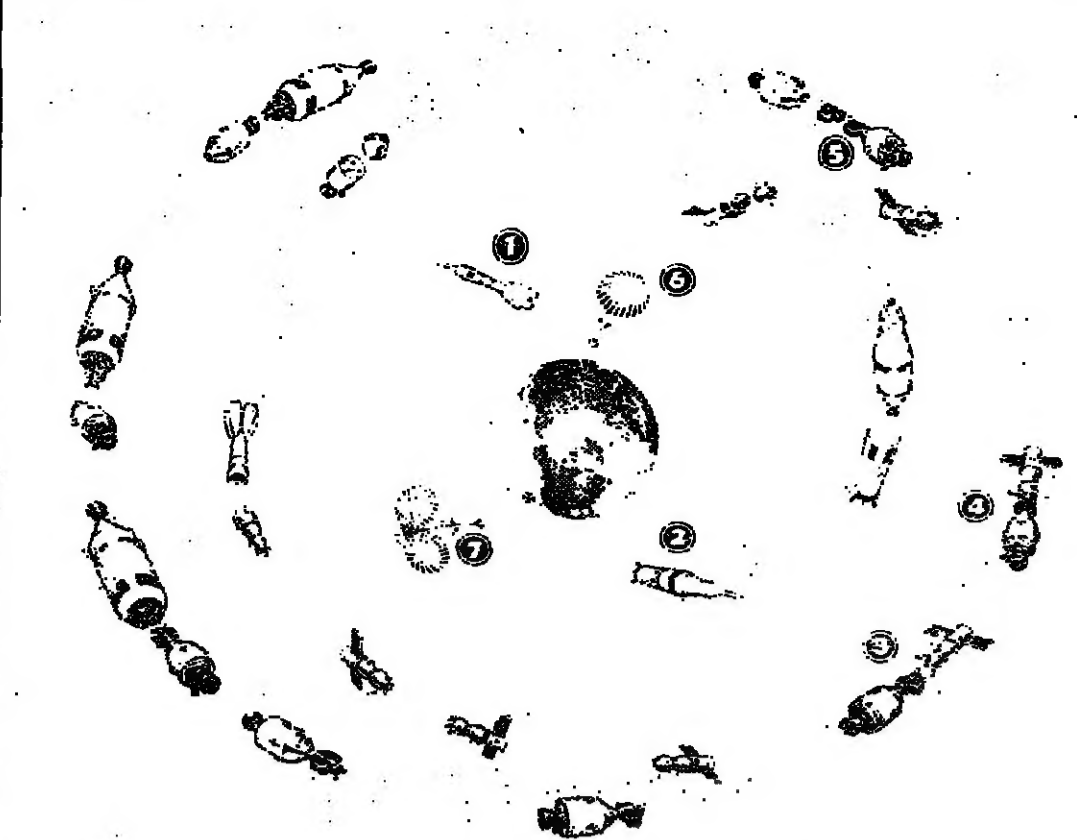
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Seven highlights: The following are highlights of the nine-day United States-Russia joint space mission, the first manned international venture.

1. Tuesday, July 15: 12.20 GMT—Two Russian cosmonauts blast off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia.

2. 19.50 GMT—Three American astronauts take off from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

3. Thursday, July 17: 12.50 GMT—Apollo and Soyuz meet in orbit 140 miles above Eastern Europe.

4. 16.15 GMT—The two craft link together for 44 hours of joint activities. 20.00 GMT—Astronaut Thomas Stafford and Donald Slayton transfer to the Soyuz craft. 21.25 GMT—Stafford and Slayton return to Apollo.

Friday, July 18: 09.55 GMT—Astronaut Vance Brand transfers to the Soyuz and Soyuz commander Alexei Leonov enters Apollo. 15.05 GMT—Leonov and Stafford transfer to Soyuz while Brand and Cosmonaut Valeri Kubyasov enter Apollo. 19.30 GMT—Slayton and Kubyasov transfer to Soyuz. 20.45—Stafford and Slayton return to Apollo.

5. Saturday, July 19: 12.02 GMT—Apollo and Soyuz undock and fly about 200 yards apart. 12.34—Two craft join for second time, allowing the Russians to practise active part of procedure. 15.26—Apollo and Soyuz undock for final time. 18.36—Apollo separates from Soyuz and the two craft continue independent activities.

6. Monday, July 21: 10.51 GMT—Soyuz returns to Earth in Central Asia.

7. Thursday, July 24: 21.18 GMT—Apollo splashes down in the Pacific, West of Hawaii.

Czechs are criticized by L'Unità

Rome, July 15.—The Italian Communist Party newspaper L'Unità today attacked Czechoslovakia for ill-treatment of intellectuals, which it said was a violation of cultural freedom.

An article headed "The Kosik Case" was referring to the Czechoslovak writer, who had recently complained in a letter to Jean-Paul Sartre, the French writer, that his manuscripts had been confiscated by the authorities.

L'Unità said: "Here we find ourselves faced not only with an open violation of the freedom of expression and of cultural activity, which should be one of the foundations of socialist democracy, but faced with an intervention which hits at the work of an intellectual at the very moment in which it is being created."

The Italian Communist Party, which in 1968 criticized the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, saw no need to modify its views on the episode, L'Unità said.

The party, which made large gains in the regional and local elections last year, has been conducting a campaign to convince public opinion that its democratic loyalties are unaffected by the policies of communist parties elsewhere.

Turkey denies aggressive intentions against Greece

From Mario Modiano
Ankara, July 15

Mr Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish Prime Minister, has rejected suggestions that Turkey has aggressive intentions against Greece. "Turkey has never envisaged or planned an attack on Greece. But it goes without saying that, like any other sovereign country, she is determined to defend her national interests," he said.

The Prime Minister was replying to a question about Greek fears that the Turks would not hesitate to go to war, or even occupy some Greek islands, if the conditions for settling the Aegean dispute were not accepted.

The recent creation of a Turkish Fourth Army to be known as the "Army of the Aegean" is not likely to allay these misgivings. The new formation, under the command of General Turgut Sunalp, with headquarters at Bornova, near Izmir, will have jurisdiction over the Anatolian coast from Cassakale to Antalya. About one third of Turkey's landing fleet has been in Izmir for the past year.

The Turkish Prime Minister rejected these ideas: "The creation of the Fourth Army has nothing to do with threatening other countries. Its purpose is purely defensive."

He said the military reinforcement of the Greek islands in the Aegean was in flagrant violation of international treaties. "Turkey should not be expected to overlook the potential dangers for its security that result from this unilateral action by Greece," Mr Demirel said in a written reply.

committee has asked for a \$20.9m (about £9m) televising fee jointly from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and its East European equivalent, the International Radio and Television Organization (OIRT). A joint offer of \$5.2m has been made by EBU and OIRT.

The end of September has been set as a deadline for reaching an agreement on television rights. Originally EBU offered \$1.7m, its fee for the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Regime's censorship laws seen as designed to keep S Africans at pre-puberty mental level

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, July 15

South Africa's young Afrikaans writers are up in arms over what they regard as a concerted attempt by the Government and the Afrikaans literary establishment to enforce strict controls over their work.

For years it has been writers in English and Afrikaans languages who have borne the brunt of South Africa's tough censorship laws, and the Afrikaans writers on the whole did little to assist their beleaguered colleagues.

However, a storm of protest was unleashed last year when Andre Brink, one of the best known Afrikaans authors, had his novel *Kernis van die Aand* (translated as "Looking on Darkness") banned. The book, variously described as "brilliant" and "seditious", is a venture across the colour line as seen through the eyes of a coloured author.

In April this year, wide-ranging censorship laws were introduced and since then two more Afrikaans works have been banned. One, an anthology of poetry known as *SKRYF*, was by the award-winning author, Brycey Breytenbach, who lives in self-imposed exile in Paris with his Vietnamese wife.

The other was the text of a play by Pieter-Dirk Uys, *Selle Ou Storie* ("Same Old Story"). Although the text was banned, the play itself has apparently not been affected as it has already been performed in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

For the past three days a group of about 40 young Afrikaans writers has been meeting at a hotel outside Pretoria to discuss how they can combat the new censorship laws which, in the words of one of them, "are designed to keep South Africans at a pre-puberty mental state."

They have formed themselves into a multiracial Afrikaans Writers' Guild.

Afrikaner writers' war on the censor

officials who have met the minister, expect him to make it abundantly clear that his visit should in no way be seen as an endorsement of South Africa's policy of apartheid. He will tell the Government in Pretoria that important changes will have to take place in South Africa if its détente policy is to be reciprocated by black African states.

The visit is also seen in South Africa as a personal boost for Mr Vorster whose détente policy has been under attack by the extreme right-wing Herenigde Nasionale Party and by conservative elements in his own National Party.

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You choose the plan that suits you best

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Ivory Coast minister for talks in S Africa

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, July 15

South Africa's determination to press on with its policy of African détente despite apparent setbacks in Rhodesia, was underlined today with an announcement that a senior member of the Ivory Coast Government is to pay an official visit to South Africa next month.

Mr Dona-Fologo, Minister of Information and a member of the Ivory Coast Central Political Bureau, will be making the first official visit by a West African Cabinet minister to the republic.

The announcement today comes only a few weeks after it was officially disclosed that Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, and a group of senior officials had made a secret visit to Ivory Coast last September at the invitation of President Houphouët-Boigny.

The Ivory Coast minister will be coming to South Africa soon after the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity which is due to open in Kampala later this month.

South Africa's détente exercise is expected to be one of the main subjects discussed at the Kampala conference and Mr Dona-Fologo will be able to give an account of the meeting to the South African Government.

If the visit proves to be productive there is a strong likelihood that he will be followed to South Africa at a later date by President Houphouët-Boigny.

It is regarded in South Africa as a significant event. Mr Dona-Fologo's visit should have been announced before the OAU meeting. It is thought that this indicates a determination by Ivory Coast to press ahead with its policy of establishing contact with the white regime in South Africa.

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PARLIAMENT, July 15, 1975

Concern at gravest teacher jobless situation since war

House of Commons

MR CRYER (Keighley, Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what was the anticipated number of unemployed teachers in September, 1975.

MR MULLEY (Sheffield, Park, Lab.)—The rate of support grants for 1975-76 allowed for continuing improvement in pupil/teacher ratios and took account of this summer's output of trained teachers.

While it is too early to have a clear indication, there are signs that some unemployment may arise.

MR CRYER—That is a serious reply. In spite of the generous rate of support grants, some local education authorities are cutting back on educational expenditure. Some teachers are facing difficulty in obtaining jobs.

Particularly in areas with old buildings, smaller classes are an important element in improving education. The employment of teachers should have a much higher priority than, for example, expenditure on defence and roads.

MR MULLEY—I agree about the importance of expenditure on education. We have done our best to draw to local authorities' attention the vacancies for teachers that exist. I know at least five who have been provided with funds to spend them on education.

I have no direct powers to intervene either on the employment of teachers or on the expenditure of education within local authority areas.

MR EYRE (Birmingham, Hall Green, Con.)—There is concern about the effect of the cash limits which are to be imposed either before the rise or after the rise. It is clear at the earliest possible moment, so that local authorities with this heavy burden of education problems will know exactly where they stand.

MR MULLEY—I will bear in mind what he says about cash limits.

At the present year we did provide within the rate support grant, sufficient funds, as we saw

it, after consultation with the local authorities, for them between them to employ the teachers likely to be available next September.

MR RODRICK (Recon and Radnor, Lab.)—Would he think again about continuing the policy of the previous administration of the training of teachers and reducing the number of college of education places? He would need more teachers, not less, to bring class levels to the size required.

MR MULLEY—At a time of likelihood of some teacher unemployment it is not sensible to consider the numbers that are going to be teachers and the numbers as of now. It is necessary to decide for September, 1976. It was for that reason that I asked the Advisory Committee to look again at the proposed number for September, 1976.

MR ST JOHN-STEVES, Opposition spokesman on education, said that the Government was not taking up their teacher quotas. I know at least five who have been provided with funds to spend them on education.

I will urge them and the other local authorities to take up their quotas in full. If they are to practise economies they should practise them in the kind of extravaganzas we read about in *The Sunday Telegraph* this week.

MR MULLEY—For once he has his figures right. This is certainly the case. The Government is in the first time a teacher unemployment situation has arisen since the war, a constant period of shortage.

I am encouraged by his suggestion that we should make representations to the Government, when he asks me to intervene in these matters, it is inconsistent with his opposition when I seek to intervene in their schools.

Liberal MP seeks to get a Bill of Rights

MR BEITH (Berwick upon Tweed, Lib) was given leave to introduce a Bill to declare the inalienable rights and liberties of the subject.

He said that bitter memories of the immigration legislation reminded him how easy it proved to curtail the rights of a subject. The Bill was introduced by a British passport. Current discussions on the freedom of the press under the law of libel and slander demonstrated how important freedoms could be put at risk as a side-effect of a statute with a quite different purpose.

The statute book was cluttered with measures like the Official Secrets Act which had severely limited the freedom of the press under the law of libel and slander.

The processes by which civil rights were threatened became more and more rapid. The amount of legislation brought in by governments got ever larger and more complex.

The scale of bureaucratic interference in the life of the individual was ever greater. The development of technology in such areas as computers and buging devices posed ever greater threats to rights such as privacy.

We can no longer (he said) sit back and see these things eat away like acid at our civil rights. The Bill of Rights which he sought to introduce would act as a check, a grip, a pressure which Parliament and the community was at least required to think again before abrogating a right, even when it seemed to be a simple parliamentary majority for doing so.

At this stage he sought only to establish a procedure similar to that of the American Bill of Rights under which no future legislation could be introduced without first being referred to a committee of the House of Commons.

Although the courts would thus be enabled to review legislation to determine whether it offended against the Bill as unconstitutional, parliamentary sovereignty would remain where a clear and political majority made a decision had been made to invoke it.

The Bill was read a first time.

Concerted attack against pay policy will lead to Bill

During questions to the Prime Minister on his speech on the economy in the House of Commons on July 15, 1975.

MR RUD (Mid-Oxon, C) asked: Does Mr Wilson not feel on reflection that in that rather terrible speech he once again missed a great opportunity? There are millions of people who realize the seriousness of our situation who are not in the least interested in his manoeuvres and promises in the Labour Party but are waiting desperately to hear an address to the nation as a whole from the authentic voice of a Prime Minister.

MR HAROLD WILSON (Huyton, Lab.)—If Mr Rud thinks I failed to make the speech in the House of Commons, I am sure that he will find it difficult in a number of areas to complete the reorganization.

MR MULLEY—Seven local education authorities have declined to commit themselves to the completion of comprehensive reorganization. The Government has made clear they have no intention of going comprehensive before the end of the decade.

MR SHORT—Will the department put the utmost pressure on these authorities to see that they bring the benefits of comprehensive education to all children in the secondary schools without any more delay?

MR MULLEY—My predecessor and I saw all the representatives of the secondary schools and we made the points which were put to them by their councils, which they readily agreed to do. We are awaiting their reports.

While only seven have declined to commit themselves to the principle of comprehensive reorganization, there are 20 million of others who will find it difficult in a number of areas to complete the reorganization.

MR ST JOHN-STEVES, Opposition spokesman on education (Chelmsford, C)—Why does he not repeat to Mrs Short the figure he gave me in a letter of July 7 that he was waiting for the answer to the question whether he had made clear they have no intention of going comprehensive before the end of the decade?

MR MULLEY—Mrs Short asked how many authorities have not declared their intention of changing over. The answer is seven. The other 23 have accepted that they should change over but for a number of reasons—in some cases particularly over difficulties about staff and buildings.

He said that the debate was the latest chapter in a sad and quickening saga of the problems of the Post Office. Public confidence in what used to be the pride of the nation, the efficiency and economy of the Post Office, was enormously weakened by the price increases and problems of last March. That weakened confidence had been achieved, and that peace in the country was to be maintained.

MR DALYELL (West Lothian, Lab.) said he hoped the Government would make it clear that it would be unwise of the Russians to try to manipulate any foothold in Poland, which would raise serious questions for Nato.

MR AMERY (Brighton, Pavilion, C) said that the Helsinki declaration should contain nothing that would involve the recognition of the partition of Europe on ideological lines as something that was accepted as established and permanent. There would be no debate until the Berlin Wall was pulled down and the paraphernalia of the Gulag Archipelago had been dismantled.

MR BLAKER (Blackpool, South, C) said he hoped the Government would make it clear that it would be unwise of the Russians to try to manipulate any foothold in Poland, which would raise serious questions for Nato.

MR ELTON GRIFFITHS (Bury St Edmunds, C), for the Opposition, said the Russians had been calling for such a conference for a long time. But he would not help them by saying that while their words had grown more peaceful and their actions perhaps more cautious over the years, they were still a danger to the West.

The Opposition wanted to see the conference determined to be the essential precondition of détente.

MR HATTERSLEY, replying to the debate, said not as much as they would like would come out of it. He said that the Russians had divided into two separate camps, one of which was the hard-line camp and the other the soft-line camp. That was the nature of the agreement and all international agreements were of that nature. Two systems so diverse and, in many ways, so fundamentally opposed.

He needed to acknowledge that Portugal was not a product of Soviet aggression. Portugal had come about because many of them did not take democracy in Portugal seriously. They were prepared to accept any system that did not support the Soviet Union and took the view of Portugal that they might be dictators but at any rate they were not communists.

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MR STEEL (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L)—What happens if a firm refuses to pay more than a 5% wage to its workforce and the industrial action taken against it?

MR WILSON—In the first place they will have the whole organized trade union movement on their side. I am not sure whether Mr Skinner is travelling the same course.

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we would not hesitate to introduce the statutory powers, which we would do with great regret.

MR TOMLINSON (Meriden, Lab.)—In the last few weeks the trade union movement has moved further than ever before towards a voluntary agreement and the country will not deal lightly with the Conservative who seek to exploit the nation's economic difficulties for partisan advantages.

MR WILSON—It is the case that what the TUC General Council last week agreed upon goes further than the TUC has ever gone in peace or war. I would have thought that this should be a matter for all MPs to at least recognize that achievement.

Conservative MPs who laugh about the trade union movement, who say that the whole country including many of those who voted for Conservative MPs will be shown to support the trade union movement, will be as anxious as we are to know what alternative policies the Opposition can offer.

MR TAPSELL (Hornchurch, C)—While the White Paper has been greeted at home and abroad with some satisfaction, reestablishing the Post Office as a public utility, nationally, there is universal feeling that the Government's policies

of unemployment as a weapon against inflation which says that excessive pay settlements will lead to unemployment in the industry concerned?

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which would be immensely strengthened if they had been accompanied with an announcement of cuts in public expenditure.

MR WILSON—I would refer him to the reference to public expenditure in the White Paper. We would like to see some thought given by the Opposition, when they talk about cutting expenditure, to precisely what expenditure they would cut.

MRS MARGARET THATCHER, Leader of the Opposition (Barrow, C)—Are we to understand that if an employer is driven out of business, the Government policy on the 56 pay limit he can expect no protection whatsoever from the Government?

MR WILSON—I made clear that if the policy is in danger—we hope it will not be—we would not hesitate to take action of a legislative kind. There is no intention on my Government policy on the 56 pay limit he can expect no protection whatsoever from the Government.

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The law is no way to deal with the grievances of women

arones Sharp, who Dame Evelyn Sharp as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Local Government from 1955 to 1966, gives an account in *Who's Who*. She contributes to the week's guest column in our International Women's Year series.

Early 50 years ago an indelibly raw young woman came into the Mercantile Marine Department of the Board of Trade. I was starting my career. The board did not want me and I did not want the job, but successful candidates for the Civil Service were offered it and that was that. Well, at least they could not get me out of sight, and off I went to look after the foremen. This meant wrangling with landowners about who owned the beaches, they or the crown. Not for this had I joined the government service, but I beavered away and hoped for better things.

My superior was an elderly clerk to whom the law of the foremen was absorbing. My arrival completely upset the tenor of his life, and we never achieved a rational relationship. After 18 months of this I was considering other jobs when an old friend, who in the service, got me transferred to the Ministry of Health. My first happy experience of that invaluable mechanism, the old boys' network in Whitehall.

The scene changed dramatically. I came out of the pre-1914 Civil Service, which still lined in odd corners, into the world of the twenties. I was welcomed, and attached to a local in the Local Government Division, famous for his training of the young. He was a famous for his oddities, one of which was an extraordinary belief in the equality of men. He demonstrated this my first day by taking me to a bar in Soho, ordering snails and brandy, waving to two men who, he said, were his old-time prostitutes, used



language I had never heard. As I was equally determined to demonstrate equality, I never blinked though when it came to attending a boxing match in the old Thames-side Ring, I nearly pleaded membership of the weaker sex.

I owe him much. From the start he made me take responsibility. He sent me around the country to interview local authorities on usually impossible missions. My first was to Salford, where the council was told that "the Minister's Inspector" would be calling to discuss some dispute. I was met by the town clerk who, shocked by my sex, said he had the whole council assembled and could not possibly introduce me. So I burst in unannounced and piped: "I am the Minister's Inspector." A pause—and then one member said: "We didn't expect a lass, but we'd always rather see one," and snatched

up the huge cigar laid out for the inspector. Blessed Salford; it remained my favourite authority. I never shifted them an inch on the dispute, but who cared? I was over my first hurdle. And as time went on I became hardened and the local authorities, I suppose, became resigned.

The reaction of colleagues in Whitehall to the young woman tricking in was more difficult to take. Some were very friendly, but some were paralyzing and others frankly hostile—especially younger men who feared unfair advantage in the promotion race, or said they could never work under a woman. Worst was a polite refusal to do business with us—I have had this from both local authorities and from other departments spared any women of their own.

By the management, however, we were treated fairly, indeed generously; perhaps because it

was thought remarkable that we could think logically at all. Most colleagues came in time to accept us on equal terms. Some did genuinely regard us as equals—these, I found, always had intelligent wives. Gradually we became less strange and less alarming. Then with the war promotion came fast to the old hands, while young women "temps" poured into the junior posts—many of them proving superb. We had arrived. But curiously women have not followed up as one might have expected. Today I believe the Civil Service wants to recruit more women into the higher grades than it attracts and to see more staying the course to reach the senior posts. It needs a bigger pool of talent in the ever-expanding service, and it values the mix that a more even balance of the sexes provides.

Women have come a long way. They are no longer in-

credible, not even strange. Nor is this true only of the government service, where they are protected by public policy. They are turning up in senior positions in a variety of employments. When determined enough, women make their way almost anywhere they want to go. So it seems odd that now we are thinking of outlawing unjustified discrimination—difficult to determine though that must be in many cases.

Of course, there are important areas where women are still, for no good reason, frozen out: of course women have great difficulty in reconciling careers with marriage. "There ought to be a law about it," is a familiar reaction to a grievance. But I doubt if legal remedy is the best way of resolving the grievances entailed in being a woman; it could produce more friction than acceptability. Maybe there is no escaping the hard way: "Take what you want," said God, "take it—and pay for it."

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How play in hospital helps a child's recovery

For my hundredth article in this series I have turned to an old theme in a modern setting. It was a great day when in 1972 the Department of Health and Social Security set up an expert group to study the play needs of children in hospital. Two weeks ago the report of this group was made public at a conference held at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Play is the means by which a young child learns, and it helps him to cope with the stresses and strains that surround him. Since these stresses increase during a stay in hospital, it is vital that a play programme should be organized and run by a trained play worker—better called a play specialist—in every children's ward.

Play is a child's spontaneous activity, so it may sound strange to recommend that play in hospital should be organized. But, the strange atmosphere of a hospital ward is such that spontaneous play by the children is likely to be stifled unless active steps are taken to encourage it. Organized play does not mean that the play specialist directs the activity—far from it, it is for this reason that "play leader" is an unfortunate term, since it suggests she leads the play rather than fostering and responding to the child's own spontaneous activity.

The hospital play specialist must be highly trained in normal child development and also knowledgeable about everything that goes on in a hospital. She must know enough about children's illnesses to talk with ease about them to both the children and their parents. She will not, however, need the detailed knowledge of each illness that a nurse must possess.

Children in hospital must be actively prepared for each procedure they are to undergo. Possibly the greatest need is in preparation for anaesthesia, but guidance is required just as much for injections and X-rays. "Needle play" in the company of a play specialist is not a dangerous activity, and it helps a child to act out some of his new and painful experiences as well as getting rid of some of his aggression as he injects a teddy bear.

Play provides an opportunity for understanding a child's thoughts and fears. There is no question of trying to distract the child from what he is experiencing, but rather of helping him to understand, tolerate and enjoy these experiences.

The "toys" provided for a child in hospital include those instruments he will meet in a ward setting and the paraphernalia, such as masks and gowns, he will see in an anaesthetic room. It is better for the child to be awake and enjoying his journey to the operating theatre, because he has been prepared for it, rather than lightly asleep so that he wakes with fear as soon as he reaches the anaesthetic room. Apart from anything else, it is always difficult to time a child's premedication drug so that he remains fast asleep until the anaesthetic is given.

There are many misconceptions about play in hospital. Parents have been heard to say that a child should be seen to be ill in bed rather than happily playing out of it. Hospital staff brought up in the old-fashioned way have heard to say that if a child is well enough to play he does not need to be in hospital. But it is now realized that there are few illnesses for which a sick child must be forced to stay in bed if he wants to be up. Even a child with a fever does not have to be kept in bed if he feels like getting up. The child is almost always the best judge of the right amount of activity he needs.

Play removes some of the tension and formality from hospital wards for parents as well as children, and this lighter atmosphere hastens recovery whereas fear and anxiety delay it. Play also provides an additional way

in which parents can contribute to the care of their children in hospital. This may be the first occasion when parents realize the full value of play so that they provide more for their child when he returns home.

The very sick child may feel more relaxed in the play room watching other children than in the strangely quiet and more unusual circumstances of a hospital ward. Children who are too ill to play themselves will play with their eyes by seeing others playing. Children when sick seldom seem to let themselves out in the way that a sick adult does. It is as though they are reassured by an atmosphere to which they are already accustomed. This is borne out by the frequency with which a sick child asks for his bed to be wheeled into the play room. It is important that the play room should be an integral part of the ward so that children move freely between this room and their beds. Play can then be organized on the beds of those children who cannot get up. A play room away from the wards is likely to make the ward seem a nasty place, from which to escape. For the same reason the play specialists should help the doctors and nurses in the more painful tasks they have to undertake so that there is no possibility of the play specialists becoming the "goodies" and the nurses the "baddies".

Playing with the children is a vital part of a nurse's duties on a children's ward, and it is sometimes suggested that a nurse could undertake all the play activities. But it has been observed that if a nurse is to play with the children there is a play specialist on the staff. Moreover, when the nurse is busy it is her play with the children that will suffer. The play specialist is the one member of staff who will not be called away from her work with a child. She is also likely to be a more permanent member of the ward staff and may well be the longest serving member.

Play has not always been accepted as part of a nurse's duties, and there are many matrons and ward sisters who have told the nurse to set on with her work instead of playing with the children.

The play specialist must be highly qualified and trained. Her preliminary training in child development is most likely to have been as a nursery nurse, but a teacher, an occupational therapist, a state registered nurse and many allied disciplines would be equally suitable. She should then receive in-service training in a recognized paediatric department, and this should be supplemented by attendance at an appropriate course. Chiswick Polytechnic has a course lasting one academic year and is on a day release basis with six weeks in block periods. There are still some vacancies for the course beginning in the autumn. Other courses are now springing up all over the country.

Thanks to the pioneer work of the Save the Children Fund, and particularly of Mrs Susan Harvey, hospital play specialists are now an established fact. They have just formed the National Association of Hospital Play Staff.

The Department of Health has made it clear that, while recognizing the importance of play for children in hospital, it should not be regarded as committed to all the study group's recommendations. This has been explained on the basis of lack of funds to implement the group's recommendations for one play worker to be appointed to each children's ward. Such financial constraints are understandable, but the report underlines the need for such specialists. It is to be hoped that local initiatives will help provide the necessary funds.

Dr Hugh Jolly

The legendary hero of Ireland's only victory on English soil

the provisions of the Hare Coursing Bill, now on its way to the Statute Book, predictably, do not apply to northern Ireland. The Government, one might guess, felt it had enough on its plate in that quarter without adding a ban on a pastime which, as the Irish Republic, has something of the status of a national sport; though the inevitable storm of protest would at least have possessed the novelty of being non-sectarian. But whatever his personal attitude to coursing, his imminent end in England seems a fitting moment to pay tribute to the immortal Black, Master M'Grath, one of the most famous dogs in sporting history, and indeed, if it is permissible to describe an animal in such terms, Irish folk-hero.

Few animals can be commemorated as memorials as elaborate as that at Ballymacmague crossroads, in Co. Waterford, near Colligan Lodge, the site of his birth; to say nothing of the imposing tombstone, at Lurgan Park, in the North of Ireland, and the e-size effigy in bronze which, transferred from Lurgan, now stands in the grounds of Culford Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, in Suffolk. Few other dogs have had a musical gallop composed in their honour; been the subject of numerous poems—including a ballad that became, it has been asserted, a second national anthem which, in its time, "did more than anything else to lift up the depressed spirits of the Irish people". Glass, na and silverware were printed or graven with his image, and it is too much to say that when he died, at six years old—a sudden and timely death—the whole Irish nation went into mourning.

the time, Master M'Grath, then, became the dog's official name. At home, less formally, he was Dicky, or Dixie, a name which, as a consequence, became, in the course of time, one of the most popular names for a dog in Ireland.

In 1868 Lord Lurgan, his owner and, at that time, the only Irishman entitled to nominate an entrant, entered Master M'Grath for the Waterloo Cup. Run at Altcar, outside Liverpool, the Waterloo Cup is to coursing what the Derby and the Grand National are to horse racing. Bonfires blazed throughout Ireland when the small black dog won a resounding victory over aristocrats of the canine world which the English had thought unbeatable. It is one more sad commentary on the sad history of Anglo-Irish relations that Master M'Grath's triumph was seen, across the Irish Sea, as a political, as much as a sporting, victory. An English ballad sheet of the time, a parody of *Who Killed Cock Robin?* (Cock Robin was the name of the dog defeated by Master M'Grath in the final course for the Cup) ends:

Cheer up Paddy Lard,
One grievance is gone,
A victory gained,
A Waterloo won!

So far as Ireland and England were concerned, a dog, it seemed, could not even go chasing after a hare without it somehow turning into politics.

The Waterloo Cup of 1869 was, if anything, an even more spectacular victory for Master M'Grath. In successive courses he beat Lobelia and Bab-at-the-Bowster, the two most famous dogs in England; but in the 1870 Cup he fell through the ice into a dyke, narrowly escaped death, and was ignominiously defeated. Irishmen still debate passionately the question: was the dog got at? And generally decided that he was.

In 1871, amid scenes of tremendous excitement, Master M'Grath won the Waterloo Cup for the third time. To an Ireland weakened by famine and cholera, suffering the backlash of two unsuccessful uprisings, the black dog had become, however illogically, a symbol of national hope. And evidently the English, too, thought there was something special about Master M'Grath, for no sooner was he back in Lurgan, than a letter arrived from Windsor, intimating that Her Majesty Queen Victoria would like to make his acquaintance.

As Lord Lurgan recognized, a wish from such a quarter was tantamount to a command. Back to England came the dog, with his owner and his trainer, Mr Spooner. On the crossing from Belfast to Fleetwood the captain of the steamboat gave up his private cabin to Master M'Grath. At Windsor station a large crowd awaited the dog's arrival and accompanied him up the hill to the castle, where, in the entrance hall, he was received by the Queen, Princess

Louise and Prince Leopold, and other members of the Royal Household. In the words of the *Sporting Gazette* of March 4, 1871: "He had the honour of being parted and petted by all the Royal Family present."

The audience at an end, Sir John Cowell, the Master of the Queen's Household, "gave the necessary orders for M'Grath to be fed, after which he and Spooner were conducted over the castle, so that all the residents therein might see him; and before his departure Her Majesty sent a handsome gold hunting watch to the dog's trainer as a souvenir of his visit to Windsor with Master M'Grath". Outside the castle the schoolboys of Eton were waiting to give the distinguished visitor three cheers, and the dog's day ended with a visit to Mr Hawtrev's school in nearby Slough, where Lord Lurgan's young son was a pupil.

Next morning, after a session at the photographic establishment of Messrs Mayhew in Regent Street, Master M'Grath attended, successfully, the homes of Lady Dartry and the Countess of Waldegrave, both of whom held receptions in his honour. The afternoon was taken up with a visit to Marlborough House "at the express desire of the Prince of Wales"; after which the dog spent his evening at Brook's in St James's Street, Lord Lurgan's London club.

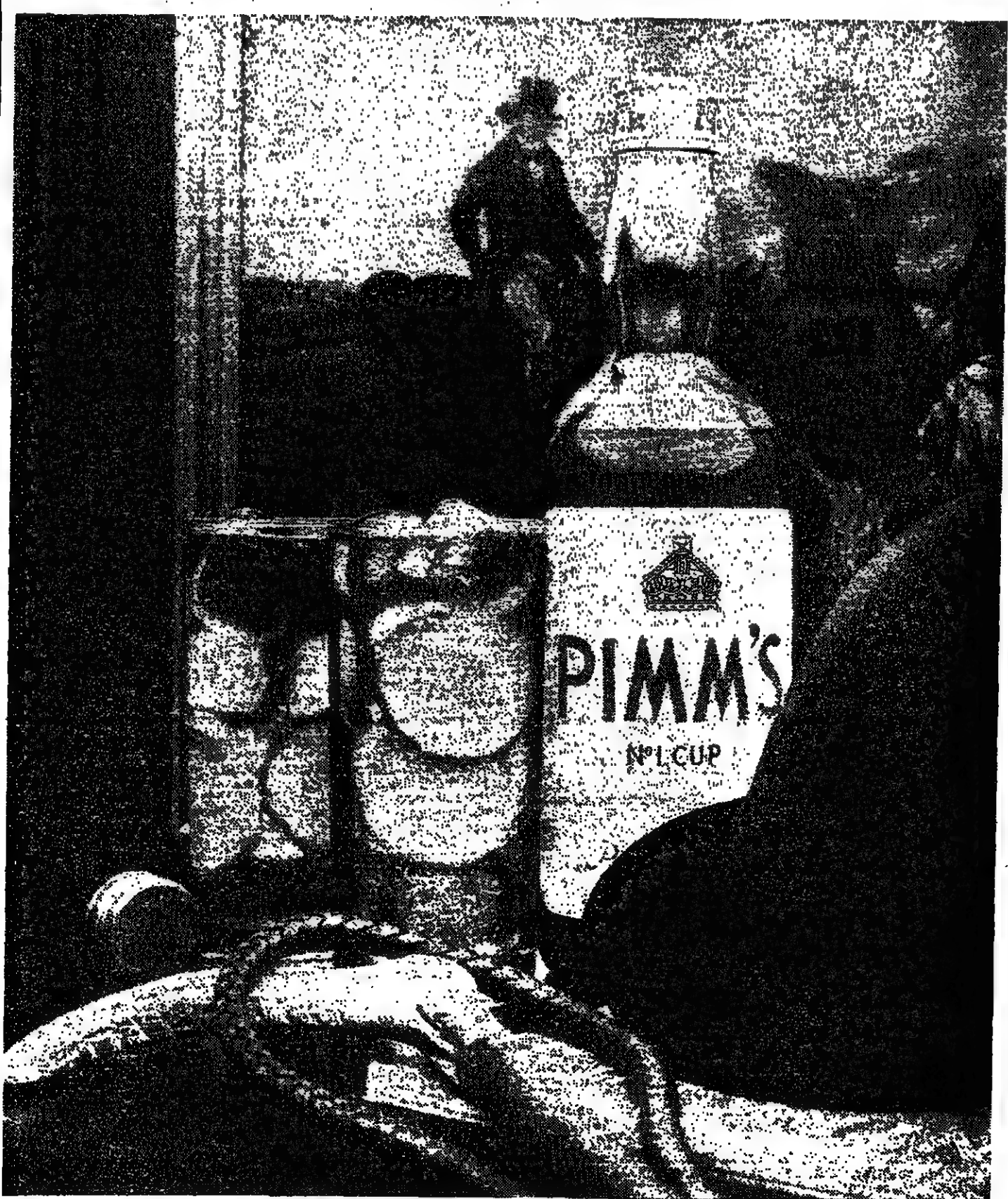
Nine months after this triumphal progress Master M'Grath was dead, on Christmas Eve, 1871, after less than an hour's illness.

"The lion-hearted M'Grath is gone", lamented the *Dublin Journal*. "That invincible greyhound has reached that bourne whence dogs return not. The Master had no enemies, he belonged to no class, creed or faction... for generations to come, coursing men will narrate his history, and when the men of the present day have passed away, his achievements will remain green and unfaded."

So far as Ireland was concerned, a true prophecy. In 1963, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of that first Waterloo Cup victory, and again in 1973, the centenary year of the erection of the Ballymacmague monument, the Irish Sporting Press published a five-part series on the life of Master M'Grath, which concluded: "M'Grath was more than a greyhound. He was a very special Irish gift to posterity. And not even time itself can erase such a memory."

Even those who detest coursing must feel the force of the legend. And so it seems fitting to end the history of Master M'Grath with the words inscribed on the Culford Hall memorial:

Though thrice victorious on Altcar's plain,
M'Grath's fleet limbs can never rise again.
Stay, man, thy footsteps—the dog's memorial view,
And run thy course as honest and as true.



Pimm's people have style.

Bernard Levin

We Levins
do love to be beside
the seaside

I was on a train, and feeling distinctly out of sorts; I had been unusually asleep, and some ill-disposed person had taken the opportunity to stuff my head with a particularly gritty form of expanded polystyrene, and to cover the roof of my mouth with a generous coating of creosote. When I woke, the sky was a miserable dirty grey; my book palled; and there was not even a stray Attorney General on the train to be abused. Woe, in short, was me.

Then, as we approached Brixton-on-Tweed, I looked again out of the window, and saw the sea. And life started, instantly, to flow through me again; my head cleared, my spirits rose, and I began to think about my dinner. But having thought about my dinner, I also thought a little about the effect of the sea, and wondered why the mere sight of it should be so invigorating, so full of promise, so redolent with assurances that life is worth living after all.

It would be pointless for me to maintain that the salt in my blood, for the Levins have never been seafaring folk. It is true that my Elizabethan ancestor, Scholme FitzLevin, made a tidy penny out of victualling the Golden Hind, but he pleaded a pressing engagement elsewhere when invited to come along for the ride; similarly, Mendoza ben Levin is known to have waved Columbus goodbye. Vasco de Levin was often in financial straits but never in any other kind, and my Bessarabian grandmother (née Neukovskiy), when the caravanserai from the hieland arrived at Steidn (the port from which the refugees embarked indiscriminately on the next boat going anywhere they might be allowed to land), took one look at the waiting vessel, discovered it was bound for America, and instantly felt sick, remaining indisposed long enough for the ship to sail and to be replaced in the harbour by one going to England, which even she knew was a good many leagues closer than the United States.

Yet the mere sight of the sea, anywhere in the world, is enough to cheer me up; and I can hardly be alone in my response to it. It is not, I think, merely the transferred excitement of all those great moments at which the sight of the sea has been a turning-point. Of these moments, stout Cortez upon a peak in Darien is obviously the most familiar; though I have always had an unworthy hunch that he did not stare at the Pacific with a wild surmise but merely shrugged irritably and said "So it we're lost again", but my favourite is the arrival of the Ten Thousand at Mytilene, which indeed is one of the most moving passages in all literature and all history.

Now as soon as the vanguard got to the top of the mountain, a great shout went up. And when Xenophon and the rearward heard it, they knew that there was something of unusual importance; so he mounted a horse, took with him Lycius and the cavalry, and rushed ahead to lend aid. In a moment they heard the soldiers shouting "The Sea! The Sea!" and passing the word along. Then all the troops of the rearward likewise broke into a run, and the pack animals began racing ahead, and the horses. And when all had reached the summit, they indeed they fell to embracing one another, and generals and captains as well, with tears in their eyes.

Well, they had come a long way. But I cannot pretend that I was thinking of that account when I caught sight of the sea off the Northumbrian coast, any more than I was thinking of stout Cortez when, some years ago, I caught sight of the

I can never
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sea without
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to travel
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and I am
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being
wanderlustful
by nature

Pacific, through the clouds, from an aeroplane flying so high that you could also see the curvature of the earth at the horizon. Nevertheless, the sensation I got on both occasions was a great flooding of encouragement and good cheer: why?

Perhaps it has something to do with the combination of permanence and ubiquity that the sea exudes, and is summed up in that line at the end of *Moby Dick*, as the Pequod goes down: "and the great shroud of the sea rolled over it, as it rolled five thousand years ago." It is odd to think of stability when contemplating something as restless as the sea, but we do. Permanence of that kind, of course, must imply indifference, which is why the sea is also, and with equal justice, thought of as cruel, but I prefer to dismiss all such antithetical attitudes; the feeling is in us, not in the sea.

The crash of breakers on a rocky shore is a thrilling spectacle; still would be of soul who could pass by a sight so touching in its majesty. But a placid Mediterranean rippling almost imperceptibly against the sand is, in its way, just as uplifting. It occurs to me to wonder whether the ancients felt the same about the sea as we do, before they knew what, if anything, lay beyond it. In other words, do we feel stirred by the sea because it immediately reminds us that there is a world elsewhere, that if we sailed away for a year and a day we would come to the land where the Song-tree grows? I rather think there is a good deal in this aspect, for I know that I can never see the sea without being immediately consumed by a wish to travel somewhere, and I am very far from being wanderlustful by nature.

Understandably, the sea has challenged painters and composers in every age, as they have striven to capture it in paint or sound. The final sea-scapes of Turner, surely the most astounding example in all art of a man being ahead of his time, have no visual rival; composers have not yet managed the equivalent, though Debussy's *La Mer* is a marvellous work, and Britten's *Sea Interludes* not much less so. (A pity Wagner wrote the sea so solemnly in his career and never touched it again; only think what the man who turned the Rhine into sound might have made, in his maturity, of the Atlantic.)

There is the cleansing property of the sea, too; we think of it as scouring the land, washing it clean. Thus we get the freshening feeling, as has been described; thus, also, the deepened horror of Macbeth's conviction that Duncan's blood will stain the sea. Nowadays, the sea has been made so filthy by man's effluents that a drop of royal blood would barely be noticed, but I dare say the sea will survive the effluents, and for that matter man. The very depth of the sea inspires awe, too, and no doubt contributes to its power to cheer us up when we are feeling that there is so much of it we need never worry about a shortage.

I returned to London by air, incidentally; somehow Gatwick does not inspire similar feelings. ©Times Newspapers Ltd, 1975

It is not surprising that although the European Court of Human Rights delivered judgment in the Golder case in February, the Home Office is still struggling to frame the appropriate amendments to the Prison Rules which the decision necessitates. In that case, the first concerning this country to reach the court, the British government was found to be in violation of two provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights. One concerns the right of access to the courts, the other concerns respect for correspondence.

It is now the duty of the Home Secretary to give effect to the court's judgment by so revising the Prison Rules that they are compatible with these two guarantees in the convention. But such is the nature of the court's judgment that this cannot be done without difficulty. In orthodox judicial fashion, the court addressed itself to the case in hand and its specific facts, and has significantly failed to give that guidance to the Government which is needed in amending the law.

It is regrettable that a tribunal of this kind is not more conscious of the need to formulate a coherent jurisprudence when it knows that its decision will require the re-writing of legislation. In view of the difficulties set by the Golder case, therefore, a brief exploration of that kind, of implications will give some idea of the form the new rules should take.

The particular Prison Rule at issue in the case is one that requires the Home Secretary's consent before a convicted prisoner may "communicate with any person in connexion with any legal business". Consent is therefore necessary before a prisoner may contact a solicitor, apply for legal aid or initiate legal proceedings.

Mr Sidney Golder challenged this rule when prevented by the Home Secretary from contacting a solicitor with a view to suing a prison officer for libel. This followed a disciplinary report on the prisoner which was not proceeded with but which remained on his file to his possible detriment.

Article 6 of the Convention provides that "In the determination of his civil rights and obligations... everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law". The Home Secretary was held to have actually impeded the launching of the contemplated action by forbidding Mr Golder to contact a solicitor.

In a nine to three decision, the court held that the right of access to the courts guaranteed under article 6 was infringed not only where the Home Secretary refused permission to issue a writ, but also where he merely prevented a prisoner who wished to bring proceedings from contacting a solicitor. It is true that there are many other reasons besides litigation for wanting to consult a lawyer, and article 6 does not require the Home Secretary to permit a prisoner to approach the courts. But any attempt to distinguish a prisoner's reasons for wishing to communicate with a solicitor is likely to break down in practice, for a prisoner has only to say that he desires to sue a solicitor in connexion with possible litigation and the prison authorities will risk infringing the convention in any case in which permission is refused and it is subsequently permitted.

Most western countries permit their prisoners to consult lawyers freely without experiencing the disorder or inconvenience anticipated by the Home Office. Indeed, some even

There is scope for a sound
penal policy faithful
to the standards of
international human rights

arrange for lawyers to attend on prisoners on a regular basis at public expense, usually as an extension of their legal aid scheme.

Thus far, the position is clear. The Home Secretary's first difficulty arises in connexion with the possible limitations on the exercise of the right. The court expressly refused to say whether any limitations were possible in any fact situation, contenting itself with the finding that, on the facts of the present case, it was clearly inconsistent with article 6 for the Home Secretary to determine whether Mr Golder could sue the officer for defamation.

It is because the court then conceded that the right was not absolute—that limitations were permitted by implication—that the Home Office may now be searching for ways of imposing restrictions on a prisoner's right to sue without falling foul of article 6. The court did say, however, that any such limitations must not injure the substance of the right itself. It would seem, then, that limitations are permissible only in a procedural context where access to the courts is manifestly being abused; and even in those cases, the limitations must be applied cautiously. In all other cases, however mischievous or unarguable the

prisoner's case strikes the prison authorities as being, access both to a solicitor and to the courts must, it seems, be allowed.

The real difficulties facing the Home Secretary come, however, with that part of the court's decision dealing with article 8, which provides that "Everyone has the right to respect for his... correspondence". The court held, this time unanimously, that the Home Secretary's refusal to allow Mr Golder to write to a solicitor with a view to bringing legal proceedings also violated article 8, and this of course raises the whole question of prisoners' correspondence. The present rules and practices control not only the number, length and contents of letters which a prisoner may write and receive, but are also able to control to whom the prisoner is allowed to write and from whom he may receive letters.

The extent to which the Golder case affects these matters is the chief problem. Like article 6, article 8 is not absolute; but here the only interference permitted is that of the State itself, and must be "necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of

health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others".

Although acknowledging that these considerations may justify interference with correspondence in the case of a prisoner, the court in the case of the ordinary citizen, and even allowing for the power of appreciation left to assess the court nevertheless held that it was unable to discern how the Home Secretary felt that the relevant grounds—the prevention of disorder or crime, the interests of public safety and the protection of the rights and freedom of others—obliged him to deny the prisoner permission to write to a solicitor with a view to suing the prison officer for libel.

The question left unanswered by the court was how far this requirement of respect for correspondence must go in the context of imprisonment. Must every particular act of interference be justifiable on its own facts under these considerations? Or can the prison authorities, as the government contended before the court, claim a margin of discretion once they have shown that the circumstances involved justify a general interference on the basis of these listed principles?

Little guidance in this is forthcoming from the court's separate opinion of Lord Justice of Appeal, Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, of the former interpretation which is correct. This would mean that prisoners' correspondence would be allowed to read letters, and to examine them for contraband, would remain, but to be stopped the letter would actually have to offend against one of the listed considerations. This, for example, would enable prisoners for the

first time to write to newspapers to express their views, although "the protection of the rights and freedom of others" would doubt justify interference when named prison officers were named; and the libel would adequately sum up caution on the part of press.

Even if the alternative interpretation is the right one, would seem that it would require prisoners to correspond with solicitors, members of Parliament and the British being one of the western nations to impose onerous restrictions on prison correspondence with MPs.

It is between these competing interpretations that Home Secretaries must choose some time now, as meetings abandoning censure in a few prisons have been progress. The Home Secretary may take the judgment as a narrowest and relax the Rules accordingly, but it is almost certain to impose onerous restrictions on prison correspondence with MPs.

This case affords the come stimulus to refresh the whole subject prisoners' correspondence. It is a subject dominated by considerations of administrative convenience and not of the dictates of national treaty law. The scope also for a sound constructive penal policy, full at once to the standards international human rights and to the needs of prisoners. Already, though, prisoners are growing impatient over the delay to implement the court's decision.

Graham Zel

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The referendum madness—guess who started it all?

Eric Moonman

he is such a good communicator. But, more important, there was no high-level, all-party team to compare with Wilson/Jenkins/Heath/Thorneycroft.

I understand that by the time this deficiency got through to the anti-EEC decision-makers and it was agreed that some of the heat should be taken out of the Benn vision of Europe and call in Mr Edward du Cann, there were only 48 hours to go. Mr du Cann gave his Papal blessing, but it did not work and he later withdrew part of his benediction anyway.

The fascinating question remains: Who really started the referendum madness, and when? Surprisingly, not Mr Harold Wilson (as some think, to save the party); nor Mr Tony Benn (to gain the leadership); it was much more devious than that. A reading of the obscure *New Statesman* leader by Mr Dick Crossman on August 7, 1970, confirms that the idea originated with him. Mr Crossman was after electoral advantage and saw the idea of a special Labour Party conference committing

the party to an anti-EEC stance as a way back to power.

Mr Crossman's calculated analysis succeeded, and the elections were won. But what a price we in the Labour Party have paid and will continue to pay in credibility, in interpersonal relations and in diverting national attention away at a vital period from our internal economic conditions.

The social contract and in turn, the economy, have taken a pounding. Both sets of front-bench spokesmen did little to inspire most back-benchers with their theories in the economic debates let alone the trade unions and the employers outside. Significantly, the greatest single contribution to buttressing the contract came from outside the House—through T & G union leader, Mr Jack Jones. He is an honest, courageous leader who is deeply concerned for the less fortunate in society, and he seeks to avoid the return of a statutory incomes policy.

I have personally argued in these columns for an extension of the contract to include the

consumer, thus providing an independent voice in all critical wage negotiations. But to men like Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader who shows an utter contempt for anyone outside his section of industry, a statutory policy may prove to be the only answer.

He and others like him equate wage militancy with socialism. Nothing could be further from the truth. His posture and speeches are no more concerned with the poor and underprivileged in our society than were the capitalists of the last century. It is a further irony that he should be allowed to get away with his mischief without a word of criticism from those who regard themselves as the keepers of the socialist conscience—the Tribune group.

The recent measures to strengthen the economy will help. But if they are ignored by the selfish or arrogant then Mr Harold Wilson, who continues to have enormous prestige in the country, will need to appeal over the heads of these extremists whether in Parliament or the trade unions to the country as a whole. He did it successfully over the EEC and he can do it again.

The Arab-Israeli parliamentary warfare has eased and has more rational. This is due to the change of persons involved. Mr David King, the Arab supreme commander, is much less fanatical than Christopher Mayhew and will be more effective for cause, while at the La Friends of Israel, Mr Huchfield is of tougher than many Jews and has as much chutzpah.

Now for my end-of-term sage: in August MPs should quit reading newspapers perhaps take up, as divorcee reading, the spine-chilling horror comic otherwise known as the Third Report of Committee of Public Accounts published last weekend, which how Whitehall continues to mismanage massive public money. In addition I should have a thorough chip with their doctors; and the hell of it is either Sir David King or Mr Bernard Levison, the German opera better still, look at the w through the eyes of children and grandchild it's a revelation, and it's The author is Labour MP Basil Donlan.

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Why Afghanistan has the Russians over a barrel

Two years ago today there was a revolution in Afghanistan. The king was thrown out, a Republic declared. Afghan Radio said there was to be a new dawn in the country, an end to the old sloth and corruption. Referees were promised. Afghanistan would enter the twentieth century.

There was excellent material for the western press to base scare stories about yet another country falling into the Soviet orbit. The Soviet Ambassador cancelled his leave a few days before the revolution, and a committee of Soviet-trained officers, whose names were not made public, was declared to be behind the coup. Recognition for the new regime was immediately granted by the Soviet Union.

Two years later, it all seems remote. Nothing has happened to disturb the complicated and

successful Afghan policy of playing one powerful neighbour against another. The Soviet Union, although it continues to train the Afghan army, has not noticeably increased its influence.

Indeed, if the Soviet Union were at their mercy they ever, the Soviet oil is still shipped in barrels over the Oxus at prices roughly similar to those before the oil crisis. Which other country can say the same?

Afghanistan has always played neighbours against one another. In the nineteenth century the country was allowed to continue as a fossilized buffer state between the Russians and British Empires. In the cold war, the Afghans played off the great powers against each other with consummate skill.

Aid poured in from every side. Roads, dams, airports and schools were built with foreign money, but all to little effect. Afghanistan has shown itself to be an aid donor's nightmare. Not only did the aid seem to make little difference to the country providing it but the schemes themselves proved to be, in many cases, white elephants.

Harvests in the Hilmal valley after an enormous dam was built to increase irrigation and fertility in the valley, systematically decreased. Kandahar airport, built at enormous cost, stands vast and practically unused.

The Afghans are still playing the same game. Arab states have offered a total of a billion dollars, Iran another two billion the Soviets, already owed half a billion, have offered

more and rescheduled their repayments. The Afghans have shown little ability to use these vast sums. The country still remains in the bottom five of the United Nations list of the poorest nations. On the basis of past history, few of the promised billions will be put to productive use.

Afghanistan's population is a mixture of peoples with ethnic roots beyond its borders. The ruling class is mainly Pushtu, the people the British spent so many years fighting on the North West Frontier. About half the Pushtus live over the border into Pakistan. Most other Afghans are Tajik, Uzbek, Turkmen or Kirghiz. All these groups are the majority of their fellow countrymen living outside the Soviet border in separate Soviet Socialist Republics.

Mohammad Daoud, who rules

the country today, is more like a figure out of Herodotus than out of the political mythology of the twentieth century. He is the old King's cousin, married to the King's sister and had been the Prime Minister for 10 years in the 50s and 60s.

He came out of retirement, where he was said to be meditating on the future of his country. In the past he had the reputation of being an energetic, reforming figure. Today he is Head of State, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and has overall charge of planning.

But for all his reputed energy, the country has little to show for it. A constitution has been promised and so has land reform, but no firm schemes have appeared.

Mohammad Daoud's greatest success has been in the conflict with Pakistan over the Pushtu population in the North West

Frontier. Afghan Radio claims the death of the 1st stani Pushtus, many of whom are imprisoned. Students Peshawar, the provincial capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier, are in continual form many sporting badges proclaiming support for Afghanistan.

Little is likely to happen out of this. The Afghans are not strong enough and the Soviet Union is not enthusiastic enough to allow real disruption on the frontiers of Asia. Mr Mohammad Daoud, Afghan, is likely to remain poor, looking picturesque and a palace suit to disrupt a state which suits everybody, perhaps the poor workers of the bulk of the Afghans.

Andrew Mun

The Times Diary

Why working-class women get fat

To get the obvious joke out of the way first, obesity research has become a growth industry. Slimming has been a fad for some years now, with a proliferation of slimmers' clubs and magazines. But the increase in serious medical work on the subject is a more recent phenomenon.

The first international congress on obesity was held in London last October. Yesterday its proceedings were published in book form, and a press conference was given by three slim doctors to mark the occasion.

It is no revelation that it is unhealthy to be fat, but research in America shows that it is more unhealthy to be a fat man than a fat woman. This is lucky, in one sense, because a survey nearer home—in Richmond, Surrey—revealed the highest incidence of overweight to be among working class women between 50 and 65.

Dr Alan Howard, who introduced the research yesterday,

explained that the poor eat more carbohydrates and the rich have a greater social motivation to be thin. This is not so in all societies. Among the Navajo Indians, fatness indicates wealth.

More foreign news—in Czechoslovakia, obesity among men has more than doubled in the past 15 years. This has matched a growth in sales of food, alcohol and television sets. And children everywhere are getting fatter, probably because mothers give babies solid food too early, providing them with more calories than they require.

Dr Trevor Silverstone discussed what makes people eat too much. He described some intriguing research in Southern California designed to prove whether fat people eat in response simply to the sight and smell of food, while others eat only when they are hungry.

It was discovered that adolescents of all shapes ate more lunch when it was preceded by a lesson in which food was dis-

cussed, or in which the teacher brought her lunch tray into class. But another survey, also in Southern California ("Obviously the new fetish there is watching people eat", said Silverstone) indicated that fat people tend to eat all there is on their plates, take larger mouthfuls and eat faster than the thin.

Having discovered what makes people fat, a more difficult enterprise is to find how to make them thin again. Among the remedies suggested at the congress was the manufacture of chocolate elixirs containing a proportion of the normal calories. Others said that diets containing only 300 calories a day could be safe and effective, whereas previously it had been thought that 800 calories was the safe minimum.

The greatest interest at yesterday's conference was aroused by the suggestion of a surgical operation which bypasses the absorption of food, making weight loss inevitable. This has been tried on some 150 people in Britain but is slightly risky and is regarded as a last resort in cases of extreme obesity. Patients can experience discomfort for up to a year following the operation.

At the end they sat us down to a lunch which began with a high-protein soup, a portion of

which was supposed to contain enough calories for a day. It is made of consommé, peas, tomato puree, seasoning and yoghurt, and tastes just like it. I take it to be an acquired taste but, having persevered with it (being fat I am unable to leave anything on my plate) I was disappointed that the organizers did not have the courage of their convictions, and gave us two more courses.

Comradely

From there I continued to a less self-indulgent assignment—a press reception given by the seventh Communist University of London. At a series of specialized courses, 735 students are being up on the Marxist aspects of their subjects. I declined the fraternal offer of a Carlsberg lager—two fatening

Attendance at these annual week-long functions has been rising steadily. There were less than 100 at the first, 280 at the fifth and 630 last year.

According to David Coutinho, the organizer, the purpose of the sessions is partly to combat the capitalist bias of conventional universities. Most of those enrolled are university students, though not all. Bernard Steer, a lecturer about his assistant, which awaits only perfect weather conditions of less than 10 knots wind around the entire

he recognized a gardener who works for Lambeth Borough Council.

"The specialized courses help students to take up the cudgels within their own departments by exposing the ideological content and structure of the various disciplines," Coutinho wrote in the course prospectus. (That should be an interesting exercise in Lambeth Parks Department.) Some courses also propose Marxist solutions to Britain's present crisis of inflation. There are discussions about the tactics of revolution and two courses on the women's movement.

All the students, nor indeed the lecturers, are Marxists. There have been, said Coutinho, some "sharp polemics in the political courses—but it has been fraternal and comradely".

Bumpy

Is there no end to maritime lunacy? As if sailing single-handed the wrong way round the world was not enough, a man from the Navy now intends to sail non-stop round the British Isles in a flat-bottomed boat.

Lieutenant-Commander Diccon Ruscombe-King appears perfectly sane about his assistant, which awaits only perfect weather conditions of less than 10 knots wind around the entire

coastline. Yesterday he took Alan Hamilton for a trial run down the Thames. He survived and the only casualty was a glass sent to the deck by the wash of a passing hydrofoil.

To complete the circumnavigation in the planned 70 hours will require an average speed of 35 knots for the 1,800-mile trip. On the demonstration run from Lambeth to Tower Bridge the two 150 hp Swedish diesels were kept idling at a mere 25 knots, but it was still sufficient to cause spine-jarring crashing of the flat fibreglass bottom against the murky Thames ripples. Ruscombe-King and his three-man crew will be supplied with their rubber mattresses for their journey.

The purpose is to raise funds for the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, and to try out the boat, an eight-metre fibreglass Searack. It looks like a miniature landing craft, and has done great things for British exports

Moving

The tie-piece of Peter Dent's exhibition "Living Sculptures" in the foyer of the Whitechapel Art Gallery is called *Electric Chicken*. Turning a telephone dial makes it flap its wings and squawk, and repeated dialing increases the violence of the motion and raises the pitch of the cry. Dent

himself was giving a pretty fair imitation of his chicken, as he tried to protect it and five other pieces from damage at the hands of wildly enthusiastic schoolchildren.

His voice, warning children not to burst Ulsterman's inflatable gloves, was many decibels shriller than the mellifluous recording issuing from his Greeting Machine. This in turn was being played by a see you. I hope you enjoy the show," and lit up the word "Welcome" when its extended hand was shaken. It was shaken so often that Dent had to switch off to prevent it over-heating.

Dent, who says he likes sculpt-

tures to work, may I wished that his item *The Principle of Amnesia* really had dispensed chi form to visitors and burr. Instead, at the press of button, a vacuum cleaner in blew out a current of warm perfumed with Essie Lau perfume. Left over from broken romance," he wistfully.

Observation

There were no children more decorous at the Academy where Phaidon had borrowed the private agents to launch Geoffrey C. son's new book *Britain Observed*, about British landscape artists.

Britain Observed costs £9. "When I edited *New Verse* the thirties," Grigson said, "every publisher used to send me a copy of every book. We only had a circulation of a thousand, but even Friday we loaded a half-pallet of books and sold them half-price at a dealer's in the Strand. We paid all our bills."

Yesterday the Phaidon stood close guard over the copies of Grigson's book which were on display. "We sent out 30," they said, have to be careful these days



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A GESTURE IN MID-SPACE

The Soviet-American space link-up is dismissed by many people as a pointless and expensive stunt on which grown men should not spend the taxpayer's money. Certainly its value does not spring easily to the eye. Technologically it is no breakthrough. Ingenuity and hard work were all that was necessary to link up the two very different systems, and the manoeuvring is being done by the American using familiar techniques. Nor does the link-up lead directly or inevitably to closer cooperation in space or to the ability of either side to mount rescue operations on behalf of the other. No definite plans exist to repeat the experiment, which may therefore lead nowhere at all.

Politically, too, there are no immediate or easily definable benefits. Soviet-American relations are shaped by other issues and will not be much influenced by a few astronauts shaking hands over Bogor. Rivalry and cooperation will remain in about the same proportions in the Middle East, Europe, and other areas. Even in space itself the meeting will have no discernible effect on the race to gain military advantage from the use of satellites.

Nevertheless, put in longer historical perspective the experiment is probably worthwhile. It has given away too much advanced technical information. It introduces a small element of co-operation into an area which has hitherto been dominated almost entirely by rivalry and thoughts of national prestige. It thus marks the distance that has been travelled politically by both countries since the early days of the space race. The Americans are making a particularly significant gesture since they now have a commanding lead in space technology and could have gone racing ahead to exploit it instead of pausing to give the Russians a hand. They had their reasons, but a country with narrower vision might have decided differently.

The link-up therefore takes its place in the web of cooperative agreements by which the Americans hope to take some of the dangers and tensions out of east-west relations. It has involved a lot of personal contacts at a technical level and has forced the Russians to overcome some of their habitual secretive-

ness. The more such contacts there are the less susceptible either side becomes to the artificialities of ideological warfare. The more agreements and joint ventures are started the greater the stake of both sides in moderate behaviour and peaceful relations. There are no guarantees, but these are some of the political hopes behind the effort, and they are worth pursuing.

Another hope, which lies further away, is that space programmes will come to be determined more by scientific and less by political criteria. Although this week's link-up is more political than scientific it makes a gesture in the direction of international cooperation in the exploration of space. This is desirable not only for economic reasons but because the ultimate justification of space travel is that it should benefit the whole of mankind by advancing knowledge about the universe and helping people to see the problems of the Earth in new perspective. National rivalry provided impetus at the outset but will corrupt if allowed to continue indefinitely. This week's gesture may be transitory and of little substance but at least it is in the right direction.

THE NEW SQUATTERS AND THE LAW

The squatting movement of the past few years had, as its originating motive, the pathetic and unacceptable circumstances in which homeless families in many of Britain's larger cities were forced to live as a result of inadequate housing policies by both central and local governments. Publicity given to these conditions had as one of its side effects the realization that at the same time as many thousands of unfortunate people were, through no fault of their own, without a roof over their heads, there were a large number of properties, owned by both local councils and private individuals, which were lying empty or long periods of time.

In some cases, the properties were uninhabited because speculating landlords were deliberately waiting until they could obtain a better price for them. In others, local authorities included eventually to refurbish or demolish the houses but could not do so for some months or even years. There was a great deal of sympathy for these poor families who were forced to become squatters as the only alternative to genuine homelessness. This sympathy was often channelled by arrangements whereby they were allowed to remain in the empty houses by local authorities until demolition or development could finally start.

Recently, however, it has become increasingly clear that the act of squatting is no longer mainly being carried out by, or on behalf of, deprived and homeless people. The new generation of squatters are not by any test (or if they are, they need not be), they are usually articulate and sophisticated, and their motives are often cynical in the extreme. At best, they are people whose purpose is to live cheaply at other people's expense. But many of them are motivated politically. Their

aim is not to improve the lot of the homeless (indeed, by their actions they are achieving precisely the opposite) but to make political points about the concept of private property, the capitalist system, and so on.

What is particularly disturbing, as correspondence to *The Times* over the past week has shown, is that the position is getting worse. No longer content with taking over empty properties, some have taken to squatting in obviously occupied houses. Local authorities are finding more and more trouble in evicting squatters, and one official has said that this is holding up his borough's housing development plans designed for people in real need. The Under-Sheriff of Greater London testifies to the increasing difficulties of officials of his department are having in carrying out lawful eviction orders.

The police, somewhat unfairly, have been blamed by some critics for their reluctance to take action against squatters. They are in a difficult position. It is not their function to intervene in what seems to be a civil matter, which trespass is, in many cases, crimes are committed by the squatters which would justify the police moving in to arrest the suspected offenders. There are, it is true, a number of possible offences which squatters may commit; theft, criminal damage, burglary, conspiracy to trespass, forcible entry, forcible detainer, abstraction of electricity, and possibly others.

It is not always clear that these offences have been committed, and the police, if they err, do so on the side of caution, because the possible consequences to them if they act and are wrong can be severe. Moreover, the offences are themselves not always clear to interpret in

their applicability to squatting. The concept of forcible entry, for instance, dates from 1381. "Also the king defendeth, that none from henceforth make any entry into any lands and tenements but in case where entry is given by the law, and in such case not with strong hand, nor with multitude of people, but only in peaceable and easy manner."

Yet if the police are loath to act, and the civil procedure for repossession is often intricate, cumbersome, sometimes lengthy, and fraught with legal subtleties, the only alternative, especially in urgent cases, is self-help. An owner is entitled to recover possession of his property by using reasonable force in evicting the trespasser. But if he uses more than that, he lays himself open to possible criminal and civil consequences. This is one of the dangers inherent in hiring a security firm to evict squatters, as one writer to *The Times* was forced to do. The other is that the risk of real violence is increased.

What is needed is a law aimed specifically at illegal squatters, which would empower the police to enter the premises and arrest and take away those who appear to be offending against it. The Law Commission has proposed just such a law in a working paper published last year. Two new offences are recommended: without lawful authority entering property by force adversely to any person in physical occupation of it, or entitled to occupy it; and being unlawfully on property and failing to leave as soon as reasonably practicable after being ordered to leave by a person entitled to occupation. The Law Commission's final report, which will probably be published within a few months, is expected to confirm their provisional proposals. The Government should urgently consider bringing in legislation.

INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE

A Home Secretary has proposed a scheme for handling complaints against the police. It stands a reasonable chance of being effective and enjoys a measure of support among police. That is an achievement in itself. Successive Home Secretaries have been committed to introducing an independent element into the handling of these complaints, recognizing that this was necessary both to maintain public confidence and ensure that all complaints are investigated properly. But most policemen share ideas which have been anathema, holding out respect of endless bureaucratic time-wasting and reflecting on their own integrity. For most part they have been in favour of a minimalist scheme, if one had to be introduced at all.

What the Home Secretary is opposing is not minimalist. It is a ready ear for the rhetoric of umbrageous policemen, not that it has been stamped by them. It aims to have had three principles in mind: that

the initial investigation of complaints should remain in the hands of the police; that the chief officer's responsibility for the discipline of his force should not be undermined; and that no police officer should be in jeopardy twice in respect of the same complaint. But the first principle was never seriously challenged: only the police have the specialized skills for the task. The other two principles require a delicate judgment.

The danger has always been that in order to observe them the chief officer's judgment would be held to be beyond challenge. Whoever was brought into the process, as the independent element would then have had the task simply of satisfying himself that the correct procedures had been followed even if they had produced the wrong decision. That would have been quite unsatisfactory. Some of the most disturbing examples of failure to investigate complaints properly have occurred when the investigators have gone through the motions correctly but both they and their superiors have been

more concerned to preserve the reputation of the force than to expose an offender. It is a healthy discipline for senior officers to know that a bland judgment on their part might be overturned.

What is now proposed is that any case which does not give rise to criminal proceedings or disciplinary action should be reviewed by an independent commission. It will not therefore be possible for a police officer to decide that no further action should be taken on a complaint without having that decision reviewed. The question that remains is how effectively it will be reviewed. That will depend on the number and capacity of members of the commission. So far as numbers are concerned, a certain amount of trial and error may be necessary. There should be no qualms about the need to experiment. But the quality of the commission will be critical. It will need a fair amount of expertise, including people with experience of police investigations, if it is to be more than a public relations exercise.

The courts have indicated they will punish for forcible detainer, for instance *R v Robinson* in 1971. So why are there no prosecutions? The answer is that the police have had to use force to regain their property; why were the offenders not instantly arrested by the police and charged? If there were a similar campaign aimed at other persons' personal goods and money it would be instantly put down, why are the police failing to enforce laws which protect real property in the same way as they enforce laws protecting personal property?

The test proposed by Mr Harper of distinguishing between property unoccupied before the "squat" and property still lived in by the victim is undesirable, and in the light of the offence of forcible detainer, unnecessary. Mr Harper is a gentleman learned in these matters, and so I venture to suggest he might agree with me that the true test for the police to apply is whether or not the occupiers, being without a genuine claim to legal title, resist the possession of the person truly entitled by force, and force includes as the *Robinson* case showed the passive activities of a large body as well as active belligerence.

The victim of a "squat", whether he lives in the property or not, should be able to go to the police and say "There are intruders on my property and they won't leave." The police should then investigate, and if it appears that the occupiers are without a shadow of a title and decline to leave unless picked up and bodily thrown out, they should be arrested and charged with forcible

Wage controls: reluctance to accept the inevitable

From Professor John Kenneth Galbraith

Sir, As will all who are reconciled to the inevitable, I join in welcoming the wages, incomes and prices policy just announced by Mr Wilson and Mr Healey. Perhaps it should be said that it still suggests the lingering belief that somehow, sometime there can be a return to the wonderful world of established macroeconomics—no serious unemployment, no intolerable inflation, no controls, a world that is possible.

That the trade unions should be reluctant is not surprising. Many have always seen wage control as the heart of this policy, have thought wages, as distinct from their own higher incomes, worthy of special, even unique, attention. That businessmen should be adverse is also easily understood. When wages are restrained, business incomes become a subject of public interest and policy. Also numerous company executives now enjoy a measure of influence over their own compensation but are able to attribute their reward to the impersonal beneficence of the market. With control this mystification is no longer possible.

What is puzzling, at first glance, is the reaction of economists. They are assumed in Britain to be in the United States to be the source of local professional guidance on these matters. For a third of a century it has been evident that, as full employment is approached, the modern industrial economy is inflation-prone. Wages have gone up; prices have followed suit; and the traditional monetary and fiscal policy operates to restrain this spiral only when unemployment is unacceptably high—higher than any but the most eccentric monetarists are willing to urge.

Yet while this is common or nearly common ground, the great majority of economists in both countries are uncharacteristically silent on the subject of controls. They accept the policy only after politicians, devoid of alternatives, are forced to do so. There is little discussion of controls in the universities. There is even less research and instruction on the subject. There is virtually no professional guidance for those who, under the lash of circumstance, must put the policy into effect.

This is true, in repeat, in the two countries which invest most heavily in economics research and instruction. It is a reflection of the pride in their past leadership in the subject. On the largest and most important question facing the governments of the industrial countries the economics profession—I choose my words with care—is intellectually bankrupt. It might as well not exist.

You will ask the reasons; there are, I believe, two. One is a normal innocent commitment to intellectual obsolescence. Men who believed themselves radicals when they came abreast of Keynes, cannot now believe that the world has passed them by. And they have persuaded the more tractable of their students that the same ideas will give them a sufficient reputation for bravery.

But there is a less innocent explanation. The economics profession in the United States and Britain is a large source of employment. Those so employed have a profound vested interest in the existing institutions and research. There is no economics of control. In virtually all of present instruction and nearly all present research the market is assumed.

So it is also with the textbooks. These have moved from Marshall to Samuelson. They have not gone on to the world as it is, since the neo-Keynesian world in which depressions can be overcome without damaging inflation and without controls is what there is to teach. That, *pro tanto*, is what the world is like. The reality is what serves the subject; the subject is what not what

serves reality. The world that is not accommodated to professional interest isn't the world of Messrs Wilson and Healey or of Mrs Thatcher either but that of their problem.

In announcing the new policy Mr Healey said that it would have to last for several years. That is a long step on from what others similarly faced with reality have said. But it still suggests the lingering belief that somehow, sometime there can be a return to the wonderful world of established macroeconomics—no serious unemployment, no intolerable inflation, no controls, a world that is possible.

No one throws such hopes—or of such a world. So surely we should accept that control is inescapable, permanent and, however inconvenient, far better than the alternative of inflation or unemployment. And this being our mood, might we not now concentrate our energies on learning how to live with such control, making it work equitably and to the good of the greatest number. Yours faithfully,

JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Is £6 an upper limit?

From Mr Len Russell

Sir, An aspect of the White Paper "The Attack on Inflation" which does not appear to have attracted much attention is that the Government's policy has been laid down not in its own words but by reference to a statement by an outside body. Paragraph seven states that the extract from the TUC statement reproduced as an annex "sets out the requirement which should be observed by those determining pay over the whole period from the date of the White Paper until August 1, 1976". Is there any precedent for such a procedure?

More importantly, there appears to be a very serious discrepancy between the TUC statement, which must now be regarded as the operative document, and the Prime Minister's statement that the £6 per week is to be regarded as an upper limit—not as an entitlement. Paragraph 10 of the TUC statement gives quite the opposite impression. "Adopting a flat-rate approach... would give £6 a week to all full-time adults...". The General Council therefore concludes that there should be a universal application of the figure of £6 per week. This rule means that when a new settlement is negotiated... it should be on a flat rate basis of £6. Nowhere in the TUC statement is there anything to suggest that this figure is to be regarded only as an upper limit.

In these circumstances, how is an employer to explain to his employees that the £6 per week is not a definite entitlement?

Yours faithfully, LEO RUSSELL, Flat 2, 17 Onslow Square, SW7.

MPs' allowances

From Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton

Sir, David Wood's piece in today's *Times* (July 14) is unfortunately, although I am sure not intentionally, misleading, regarding MPs' allowances.

1. The free postage is purely for that connected with Parliamentary and constituency business.

2. The free telephones are from the House of Commons only, and again in connection with MPs' work

which is like anyone else in business or engaged in office activities.

3. The free stationery is also that used in connection with the MP's necessary work.

4. The meals in the canteens are more expensive than those in outside cafeterias and in the dining room they are as expensive, if not more so than in most restaurants. If they are subsidised, then it is because the subsidies are paid in wages, etc., when the House is not sitting.

5. Surely, everyone who works at an office desk in business gets it and the office space free. He does not pay his employer for it.

6. With regard to free travel for wives. This amounts to 10 return tickets a year from the Members' home to London. This is little enough if one thinks of the loneliness and isolation of MPs' wives.

7. The secretarial allowance is £1,750 and the research allowance adds up to £5 a week, which is deducted from the secretarial allowance. That is why most MPs do not have a research assistant. Out of the allowance they can afford only a secretary, or a research assistant, not both. In any case, to get a really good secretary for £1,750 in London is impossible. One has only to look at the advertisements for such people in the London press to know that. In fact, most secretaries are either underpaid or the MP makes up the difference in pay out of his own pocket.

8. MPs do not have a "two home" allowance. They have an allowance for a hotel or other accommodation in London.

9. The free copying of course is like any other office equipment. The point surely is that most of the above so-called extras are the normal requirements in business, and are not considered as "extras" nor should they be for an MP. Business people would be horrified if they thought they had to pay for the secretary, pay for the copying machine, pay for the stamps, pay the telephone and pay for the stationery. One has only to look at what is spent to work in the office.

The truth is MPs over the years have only just begun to get what is considered normal elsewhere, and if one looks carefully and truthfully at the so-called "extras", one can see just how ridiculous the whole thing is.

Yours sincerely,

ERIC S. HEFFER, House of Commons.

From Mr Michael Parker

Sir, Comments by Mr Jack Jones and others in recent weeks have annoyed me to such an extent that I felt that I had to write and outline my present rather worrying position.

Firstly I have just had a salary increase, as a result of my union successfully concluding a series of negotiations with management, of 12.2 per cent. This means that I, as a member of middle management of one of London's major employers and at the age of 27, am fortunate to receive an annual salary of £4,845.

My father receives a salary of £4,500 as a Labour MP for Dagenham. He has been a member of Parliament for 40 years.

His hours of work vary from 9 am to 5.30 pm when the House isn't sitting and on Fridays when the House is sitting, to 9 am to 10.30 pm (average) on Mondays to Thursdays when the House is sitting.

My hours are based on a union agreement of a 35-hour week.

Need I say more?

Yours, etc,

MICHAEL PARKER, 52 Staveley Road, Chiswick, W4.

From Mr W. John Jones

Sir, It appears that the police do have power to deal with squatters who damage the property that they take over.

Squatters are trespassers. Section 9 of the Theft Act 1968 includes in the definition of burglary: "Entering a building as a trespasser... with the intention to commit... unlawful damage to the building or anything therein."

A squatter who damages property, or who is a party to the damaging of property which he occupies is thus a burglar and is liable to be arrested by the police. It is a criminal matter and not a civil one. The question of forcible entry is irrelevant.

Squatters who damage property either intentionally or recklessly offend against the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and they may also be arrested by the police under this Act.

If the police took action against those squatters who cause damage they would not harm the interests of squatters who are careful not to damage the property that they occupy. Many squatters do no harm. Some even improve the derelict property that they occupy. But the police can and should take action against the vandals who cause the sort of damage about which Miss Elizabeth Harper complained in her letter of July 11.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. JONES,

1 Hare Court, Temple, EC4,

North London Polytechnic

From Mrs A. F. Matthew
Sir, Although not in any way involved in the North London Polytechnic I have read with interest the various arguments for and against the Director.

I wonder if the troubles at NLP are not more widespread than may be thought. More and more "authoritarian" principals are being appointed to technical colleges with resultant problems for both staff and students. Lip-service is, in many colleges, paid to democracy, with Academic Boards controlled by the principals and anyone who speaks out being "damned" for all time.

My service goes back many years to the days when principals were looked upon as fair and just men of principle, working with and for the good of staff and students.

Perhaps local education authorities and governing bodies should take more care when making appointments that the past record of short-listed applicants for posts be inspected thoroughly, to ensure that they have shown care for students and staff welfare. This may seem to be a head-on collision which are becoming the rule rather than the exception.

Yours faithfully, A. F. MATTHEW, 66 Baring Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. July 8

From Mr Eric Zucker

Sir, Lord Annan's admirable letter (July 3) on the troubles in this institution reads like a breath of fresh air and, in the light of the support it has received from your correspondents, it is unnecessary for me to add further comment.

I would, however, like to comment on two points. Firstly, the letter from Mr Packham and Mr Rosenberg, couched in unusually moderate language (see *Students' Union* publications for the more usual style) refers to "the staff union, ATU". I would like to make it clear that ATU is only one staff union (and academic staff as well) in the institution. The new academic structure, the blare of propaganda from the extremists unfortunately has concealed these facts from the general public, and I would like to take this opportunity of assuring your readers that the APT is very much concerned with preserving civilised academic standards in this Polytechnic. We are very grateful for outside help such as Lord Annan's.

Secondly, the letter published on July 7 from Mrs M. Janees Rees (the Chairman of the ILTA Sub-committee) and others in recent weeks have annoyed me to such an extent that I felt that I had to write and outline my present rather worrying position.

Firstly I have just had a salary increase, as a result of my union successfully concluding a series of negotiations with management, of 12.2 per cent. This means that I, as a member of middle management of one of London's major employers and at the age of 27, am fortunate to receive an annual salary of £4,845.

My father receives a salary of £4,500 as a Labour MP for Dagenham. He has been a member of Parliament for 40 years.

His hours of work vary from 9 am to 5.30 pm when the House isn't sitting and on Fridays when the House is sitting, to 9 am to 10.30 pm (average) on Mondays to Thursdays when the House is sitting.

My hours are based on a union agreement of a 35-hour week.

Need I say more?

Yours, etc,

MICHAEL PARKER, 52 Staveley Road, Chiswick, W4.

From Mrs Maureen Ritchie

Sir, Lord Annan's implication that, when their views are at variance with his, the staff of PNL have been terrorized into holding them, does not say much either for his idea of academic freedom, or for the integrity of the staff concerned.

Having written a partisan letter, he might at least be gracious enough to respect the honestly held views of others.

Yours faithfully, MAUREEN RITCHIE, Research Fellow, Polytechnic of N London, Hat 4, 34 Arkwright Road, NW3, July 3.

St Paul's School site

From the Bishop of Kensington

Sir, I write in support of Dame Margot Fonteyn de Armas' letter (July 11) in regard to the proposed use by the GLC/ILEA of the St Paul's School former playing fields site, for a multi-million development scheme, and I do so more particularly on behalf of those who live in the parishes involved.

The need for housing is not denied. The need for open space, in an already overcrowded area, especially with the increasing pollution from the growing concentration of heavy traffic on either side of the site, is vital to the health and recreation of the community, particularly the young and the old. This must clearly be a major consideration in the mind of the Secretary of State for the Environment.

An important fact, moreover, which surely cannot have been overlooked by the GLC/ILEA is that there already exists in Chelsea the recently vacated extensive buildings and grounds of the College of St Mark and St John which should be, one would imagine, sufficient for the need, especially in the present serious economic situation. Are not priorities really at stake here?

Yours faithfully, RONALD KENSINGTON, 39 Campden Hill Square, W8 July 12.

seller lists

Mr George Mikes

Permit me to add a footnote to recent correspondence on best-seller lists initiated by my friend Egon

people would dispute the list a railway timetable or a book—although both are books—are not books in the proper sense of the word. Even telephone books were to be sold (as it soon may be) and even sold even the latest Arthur compliers would hesitate to the telephone book in the list. If not the telephone book should one draw the line personally should like to far as to say that most books are not books but drugs disguised as books

but as this statement would be too controversial I do not insist on it.

But I would insist that a book, to deserve its name, must reflect some creative talent, high, low or medium-brow—must be a work of writers and not compilers, food-tasters, map-drawers, gardeners, and must be more than a souvenir volume of successful television programmes. On this basis I should exclude six (perhaps seven) of the ten books included in *The Sunday Times* non-fiction best-sellers list today (July 13). My non-books are: *The Ascent of Man* and *America* (Bronowski's and Cook's TV series disguised as books), *The Wild Flowers of Great Britain*, *No Through Road* (the AA's compilation of country walks), the *Michelin Guide to Great Britain and Wisden's Cricket Almanac* (I know nothing

about *All Creatures Great and Small* but it sounds suspicious). Had Egon Ronay's food guide reached the list, it should have been excluded, too.

There will, no doubt, be an uproar telling us about the tremendous intellectual effort and literary skill needed for the compilation of a food guide or a list of country walks. But my point is this: I have nothing against these worthy commercial products, except that they are not books, consequently they should be mentioned among other best-seller articles—say plastic mugs, hairbrushes and lawn mowers—but not among—or should I say amid—books.

I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully, GEORGE MIKES, 1b Dorncliffe Road, SW6, July 13.



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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began July 14. Dealings End July 25. § Contango Day, July 28. Settlement Day, Aug 5.
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[illegible]

State industries facing consumers' revolt as 20pc gas price rise is rejected

By Malcolm Brown

In a move which could herald the start of a consumers' revolt against higher tariffs for state industry products and services, the National Gas Consumers' Council yesterday rejected proposals which would raise the cost of gas to the domestic consumer by an average of 20 per cent.

The NGCC stand against higher prices came as the Post Office Users' National Council, its sister organization, started a series of intensive discussions with Sir William Ryland and senior Post Office officials on the corporation's proposed price increases.

These meetings are expected to culminate in a recommendation to Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, early next month that the Post Office should be prevented from raising postal and telephone tariffs by the full amounts proposed.

Speaking just hours after the publication of a paper by Sir Arthur Hetherington, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, which stressed the necessity of

Iran 'not to press' for rise of 30 pc

Bonn, July 15.—Iran will not insist on an oil price increase of 30 to 35 per cent although it would correspond to the loss in purchasing power of the country's oil revenues, the Shah of Iran said in an interview with the West German magazine Stern published today.

However, he declined to say what position his country would take at the next session of Opec in September.

He said an increase of 10 to 11 per cent which he was reported to have put forward was wrong.

The Shah said past oil price increases had led to a 22.7 per cent decline in Iran's oil exports and a loss of \$3,000m to \$4,000m (£1,363m to £1,818m) revenue, or one-tenth of the annual budget.

Opec wanted oil to be more economically used and would be coal to be some other form of energy to be used for lighting and heating.

"The price of oil should be adjusted to the price of other energy sources. That is our main argument", the Shah added.

He regretted that Iran was obstructed from buying a sizeable share interest in Daimler-Benz, the makers of Mercedes cars.

If they had been associated with the company they could have imported up to 100,000 cars a year. "Now why should we?" he asked.—Reuters.

Gas could need coal again by end of century

The gas industry, which has been increasingly reliant on natural gas from the North Sea since its discovery 10 years ago, could be looking to coal again by the end of the century.

This forecast is made by Sir Arthur Hetherington, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, in the latest issue of *Coal and Energy*, a National Coal Board quarterly for energy experts.

Sir Arthur states that the programme of converting 13 million consumers to natural gas is rapidly approaching completion.

British Gas is now largely a distributor of offshore supplies, and expects to achieve the estimate set in the 1967 Fuel Policy White Paper of 4,000 million cubic feet average per day this year. This is equivalent to almost 60 million tons of coal a year and four times more gas than was being sold in the mid-1960s.

Hawker seeks £22m stake in American engine group

By Anthony Rowley

In an important diversification out of the aerospace industry the Hawker Siddeley group is to buy up to half the equity of Onan Corporation, a leading American manufacturer of diesel generators and a subsidiary of Studebaker-Worthington, the New York industrial group.

Under a deal likely to be worth nearly \$50m (about £22.7m) Hawker will make a public tender offer for the 20 per cent of Onan not owned by Studebaker, from which it will also buy a portion of the equity designed to give the British and American groups equal shareholdings in Onan.

Sir Arnold Hall, Hawker Siddeley chairman and managing director, said last night that the move was designed to enable his group to benefit from the enormous expansion in United States demand for diesel engines after the oil crisis.

Hawker Siddeley is already the biggest United Kingdom producer of non-automotive diesel engines (largely for use in electric power generation) through a subsidiary, Petters, which will license Onan to use

Repossessed tanker may go for £5.7m

By Christopher Wilkins

Ocean Transport and Trading has reached an advanced stage of negotiations to sell Titan, the 226,000 dwt supertanker which it repossessed in May when Mr Hilmar Reksten, the Norwegian shipping magnate, failed to meet his charter terms.

The price under discussion for the ship is believed to be between £12m and £12.5m (about £5.5m to £5.7m). The prospective buyer is unknown.

As a measure of how low the prospective sale price is, Titan's exact sister ship, Halcyon the Great, owned by Court Line, was sold at the beginning of this year in highly unfavourable circumstances for £23m.

In February, Ocean sold the slightly larger (267,000 dwt) and newer Triton to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Corporation for around \$35.5m.

Ocean is still involved in legal dispute with Mr Reksten over the breach of his charter terms on Titan, which occurred on May 8. Mr Reksten had chartered the ship at £200,000 a month until 1980.

Warning of collapse: Mr Peter S. Douglas, technical director of the Chase Manhattan Bank, says in the latest issue of *Sea-trade* magazine that the tanker owning industry "is in imminent danger of being virtually demolished by the weight of its own surplus ships".

BLACK & EDGINGTON

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1974—New Records

	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
group turnover (£15 months)	£11.1M	£10.7M	£6.5M	£3.3M	£3.6M
profit before tax	£1.35M	£943,000	£587,000	£379,000	£298,000
earnings per share	13.45p	12.51p	11.45p	9.71p	8.87p
dividend per share	9.66p	6.87p	6.54p	5.63p	4.79p

● Record turnover and profits, with profits best-ever at over £1m.

● Camping and leisure side buoyant despite general economic climate.

● Exports level in current year ahead last year's record.

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Mr Varley to tackle BSC finances

By Maurice Corina

Industrial Editor

Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is to meet the full board of the British Steel Corporation shortly for talks on its mounting financial problems.

He will follow this meeting with a new statement of government policy on plant closures, announcing decisions on various Scottish installations and the works at Shotton, Cheshire.

It remains to be seen whether the departure of Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn from the Department of Industry signals any revision of the interim steel closure review, which in February saved 13,500 jobs longer than sought by the corporation.

One thing is already clear—the plan agreed with the trade unions to reduce labour costs is proving inadequate now the BSC is losing money at the rate of £4m a week.

The "monitoring" team set up with the TUC steel committee to oversee cost reduction schemes is due to meet on July 29 to hear reports on progress.

The corporation is now engaged in a severe general cost reduction programme, but the Government has been advised that inflation has changed estimates of the cost of its current investment programme, with the result that bigger borrowings than forecast at the time of the Budget seem certain.

A big problem for the board is that its scope for raising prices is much restricted because of falling demand and keen competition in depressed markets from international rivals.

There is some talk that the Government may be preparing to take a deeper look at the BSC's financial position to see if it can help.

A scheme of stockpiling steel with the help of cheap state money, or guarantees against City funds, has been under study for some time, and additional borrowings are being sought from European institutions, though heavy interest bills put a bigger strain on the depressed revenue account.

The corporation has not been happy with the enforced changes to its development programme, and the higher costs it faces must remain a matter of representation now Mr Varley and not Mr Benn is at the head of the department.

The doubling of the weekly losses—were put at £2m a week not so long ago, compared with the present £4m—contrast with the need to earn £375m more in the present financial year to break even.

The Treasury has already taken some defensive action by raising the corporation's borrowing ceiling, but it is recognized that this cannot be the answer to the industry's production and revenue crisis.

Some new phasing of redundancies seems unavoidable, and the Government, if it accepts this view, will seek to provide help in finding new jobs and obtaining European funds for retraining and hardship grants.

Private steel controls nearer

By Peter Hill

Controversial plans which seek to restore government control over investment and development in the private sector of the steel industry, will move a step closer to realization today.

The Department of Industry confirmed last night that officials were to have "an informal exchange of views" on the matter with representatives of the British Independent Steel Producers Association (BISPA).

This will be the first meeting on the subject since the EEC Referendum. It was in the run-up to the Referendum that the Prime Minister gave notice to his European colleagues at the Dublin summit that the Government would seek to restore British control over private sector steel investment and development.

Mr Wilson's memorandum on the subject has met with sharp criticism from private steel makers. They argue that statutory powers, to be obtained through renegotiation of existing treaties, are unnecessary in view of the already considerable armoury of restraints which Whitehall already has.

What the Government wants is to restore the powers it had under section 15 of the 1957 Iron and Steel Act. This section was repealed in the 1971 EEC negotiations on the grounds that the powers contained in it were inconsistent with the Treaty of Paris, which provides the basis for operation of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The private sector emphasizes that it is not engaged in large steel plant development which in any way threatens the operations of the British Steel Corporation. It is stressed that the Government is able to control developments among independent steel producers through its regional policy, by exchange control regulations and through the Industrial Development Certificates system.

US call for curbs: Producers of special steels in the United States are expected to ask the International Trade Commission this week to investigate imports of stainless and tool steels from Japan, Sweden and other countries.

A Japanese steel industry representative said he had been informed that steel producers would file their complaint with the ITC and would seek government action to raise import duties, impose import quotas or take other action to slow the import of the special types of steel.

At the ITC, officials said they already had several inquiries underway on imports, including metal fasteners and birch veneer door-slits, in which domestic industry groups were seeking what would be called "escape clause" action by the government to hold down imports.

Ronald Kershaw writes: It seems unlikely that Britain will be among those countries against which import restrictions are being requested. In the whole 1974 Britain exported only 6,647 tons of finished stainless steel products and 866 tons of stainless wire to America.

Commission approves NFU Trust merger

By Adrienne Gleeson

After eight months of hearing and deliberation upon the evidence, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has decided that the proposed merger between the NFU Development Trust and Britain's biggest meat wholesaler, FMC, Ltd., may not be expected to operate against the public interest.

The NFU Development Trust, which is controlled by the National Farmers' Union, had in October offered 65p per share for the 59.1 per cent of FMC's equity which it did not already own, but the bid was strongly opposed by most of the board of FMC.

The National Farmers' Union and the NFU Development Trust were last night "delighted" at the commission's conclusion, but have so far announced no intention to renew the trust's offer, which was withdrawn when the reference to the Monopolies Commission was made.

FMC's chairman, Mr Anson Payne, expressed regret at the outcome of the report.

The commission came to the conclusion that FMC "does not now have, and would be unlikely to gain, sufficient market power in the meat wholesaling trade which would enable it to restrict competition or to manipulate prices on behalf of livestock producers".

But its members were sceptical of the commercial realism of the Trust's reasons for wishing to control FMC.

The commission considered it unlikely that the trust would press FMC to carry out unprofitable schemes to a point at which its commercial viability would be threatened. And its members believed that the proposed merger might resolve the conflict between the trust and FMC, which "is harmful to the public interest".

After announcement of FMC's results for the year to end-April, and of the commission's conclusions, FMC's shares closed 5p higher yesterday at 76p.

Financial Editor, page 21

Bonn advisers may press for more reflation

From Peter Norman

Bonn, July 15

West Germany's council of economic advisers will produce a special report on the economy next month which could include recommendations for further reflationary action by the government.

The report, which is a special report in the offing, comes at a time when there are still no signs of the hoped-for turnaround in Germany's sluggish economy.

The latest monthly report by the Federal Bank published today makes clear that on the basis of May figures and some from June, the hoped-for strengthening in internal demand has yet to appear.

In August the Bonn Finance Ministry's expert group—responsible for assessing the public sector borrowing requirement—will meet, and two days have been set aside for a Cabinet meeting.

It is assumed that the government will await the outcome of these meetings before settling budget plans and possibly a new reflationary package in September.

Sri Lanka outlines plan to take over plantations

By Desmond Quigley

Sri Lankan government officials have informed British interests that all foreign and locally-owned plantation estates are to be nationalized with compensation.

Although no official public announcement has been made in Colombo, the information was passed on to Mr William Ward, the acting British High Commissioner, and Mr Trevor Moy, a representative of the Association of British Interests in Ceylon, during an interview in the capital with senior officials from the Ministry of Planning.

Such action will affect 60 to 70 British companies, which jointly own a total of 192,000 acres. By far the largest acreage—140,000 acres—is accounted for by tea plantations, with rubber plantations making up a further 48,000 acres and coconut growing comprising another 4,000 acres.

Among the British companies which will be affected are Lorrain, the Crosby House Group, Clairmont and Anglo Ceylon.

Mr Geoffrey de Glanville, president of the Ceylon Association, said in London yesterday that he would be flying to Sri Lanka next week to negotiate the terms and extent of compensation with officials of the Ministry of Planning.

He said no time limit had been given but that he would be trying to ensure that compensation for British companies was fair and paid in sterling, rather than Sri Lankan rupees.

The nationalization decision was not unexpected in London, because it has been part of the government's manifesto for some time. However, the timing caused some surprise.

It is difficult to assess the full value of British holdings in the country because there has not been an open market in plantations for some time, with the government being the only buyer.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 132.76 + 2.71

The FT index: 312.7 + 7.2

Rises		Falls	
Seacomb	11p to 29p	EPN "A"	3p to 18p
Boots	17p to 19p	Brit Debt Serv	6p to 10p
BP	17p to 20p	Bullington	6p to 5p
Brit Home Stores	15p to 22p	Dun Elms	5p to 4p
Coatswolds	3p to 12p	Feeders	3p to 21p
F&N	4p to 17p	Glaxo	15p to 26p
Fisons	3p to 36p	Lockstep	8p to 36p

THE POUND	
Australia \$	1.71
Austria Sch	39.00
Belgium Fr	86.00
Canada Cdn	2.25
Denmark Kr	12.60
Finland Mk	8.15
France Fr	9.35
Germany DM	5.30
Greece Dr	68.00
Hongkong \$	11.00
India Ru	145.00
Japan Yen	675.00
Netherlands Gld	5.70
Norway Kr	11.45
Portugal Esc	55.25
S Africa Rd	1.88
Spain Pes	127.00
Sweden Kr	9.15
Switzerland Fr	5.80
US \$	2.34
Yugoslavia Dnr	37.75

Business appointments

Appointments vacant

Financial news

Financial news

Market reports

Diary

Letters

Wall Street

Share prices

Bank Base Rates Table

Company Meeting Reports

Black & Edgington

Churchbury Estates

Halma Securities

The Milk Marketing Board

Interim Statement

Y. J. Lovell (Holdings)

Plea to CBI leaders for action on economy

By Business News Staff

Industrialists from the south west will urge the Confederation of British Industry today to issue a formal warning to the Government that Britain is approaching economic collapse and that unless action is taken soon there could be an unprecedented rise in unemployment.

The confederation's south western regional council in Bristol passed a unanimous resolution yesterday instructing its chairman, Mr Claude Pike, to deliver a statement to today's meeting of the CBI grand council spelling out the concern of industrialists in the region.

He will suggest that a three-point plan should be put in the Government by the confederation. It would call for a withdrawal of industrial legislation such as the Employment Protection Bill for the duration of the period of wage restraint; measures to discourage strikes in breach of contract; and moves to end deficit financing in the public sector.

Members who attended yesterday's meeting made it clear that the resolution was intended to shake up the central organization of the CBI and move it from what is seen by many grass roots members as too docile an approach to government during the present crisis.

Today's grand council meeting will be the first opportunity the CBI has had to gauge the feelings of industrialists to the pay restraint package.

Advisory body for 'the lump'

The Government is to set up a Construction Industry Manpower Board to advise it on the effect of measures designed to tackle abuses of the "lump", the bogus self-employment in the construction industry.

Announcing this yesterday in a Commons written reply, Mr John Silkin, the Minister for Planning and Local Government, said the board would include representatives from both sides of the industry, under an independent chairman.

He told Mr Tom Irlwin, Labour MP for Houghton-le-Spring, that he did not propose to bring forward separate legislation for the time being. "Instead, we shall concentrate our attack on the abuses of the lump through the Finance Bill measures which are due to come into operation early next summer."

An amendment has been tabled to the Finance Bill to add the possession of adequate public liability insurance to the other conditions to obtaining a sub-contractor's tax certificate, he said.

Output fall likely, page 20

Pound slips again

The pound lost a little ground on the international currency markets yesterday. Its floating devaluation "against 10 other currencies" widened by 0.1 to 27.1 per cent. For much of the day trading was relatively quiet but there was strong demand for the dollar in the afternoon and sterling closed at \$2.1805.

Halma Group

Record Growth and Profits

	To 31st March 1975	To 31st March 1974
Turnover	+65%	5,980
Trading Profits	+54%	398
Profit before taxation	+23%	318
Earnings per Share (Basic)	+24%	3.37p

Key points from Mr. David Barber's Statement:

It is very satisfying for me to report results which, in every significant aspect, have improved on the excellent achievement of the previous year.

● Net assets per Ordinary Share up to 43.5p.

● Export sales up by 45%.

● Total borrowings less than 19% of capital employed, and with ample facilities to finance further growth.

The range and growth potential of the markets we serve, together with the success the Group has achieved over a period when many of our competitors have lost ground, reinforces my view that we can face the coming year with confidence.

The Annual Report and Accounts will gladly be supplied on written request to the Secretary, Halma Limited, Halma House, Kingsbury Road, London NW9 6UL.

Manufacturers of specialised engineering equipment, air conditioning, refrigeration and ventilation equipment and industrial safety products.

Private distribution threat to Post Office

By Derek Harris

Reader's Digest Association, the magazine and book publisher and distributor, has opened discussions with another big publisher to consider reviving a private delivery service.

The aim would be to sidestep the threatened new increases in postal charges. If other publishers came in on the scheme, it could cost the Post Office, even using current rates as a base, several millions of pounds of lost revenue.

Mr Robin Fairlie, business services director at Reader's Digest, said yesterday his company was now spending £4m a year with the Post Office.

Part of that was the cost of handling promotional material which for legal reasons would have to stay with the Post Office.

But if the company revived private delivery of the Reader's Digest magazine—dropped in favour of postal delivery in 1971 but with a private operation maintained in Nottingham as a monitoring operation—it could cost the Post Office on current rates alone about £1m in revenue.

Mr Fairlie added: "We are now holding serious talks with another national magazine with a large circulation on the possibility of a joint operation, and certainly others are likely to be interested."

He said the economic breakpoint for private delivery was probably 1,500 copies within a fairly densely populated area. That would take in most towns as well as larger population concentrations. The most expensive form of delivery, to subscribers in sparsely populated areas, would be left to the Post Office—to the detriment of the Post Office's overall economics.

Mr Fairlie added: "It could be that another example of the Post Office, if charges do go up, pricing itself out of the market."

The private delivery system would be revived, he said, if current discussions with the Post Office did not produce a reasonable discount offer for continued use of the postal system for the 1.4 million print of Reader's Digest, only 200,000 copies of which go over book-stall counters.

The Post Office last night had no comment to make on the plans.

Employment figures in iron and steel foundries

It is regretted that in yesterday's article dealing with state aid, the statistics for employment and figures for tonnages were confused. In the case of iron foundries of the total of 843 foundries in 1971, 497 employed up to 50 people; 248 employed between 51 and 200 people; 73 employed between 201 and 500; 15 employed between 501 and 1,000 people; and three employed over 1,001.

In the case of steel foundries, in the total of 78 in 1971, 18 foundries employed up to 50 people; 21 employed between 51 and 200 people; 25 employed between 201 and 500 people; 11 employed between 501 and 1,000 people; and three employed over 1,001 and over.

CHURCHBURY ESTATES LIMITED

Highlights from the Annual Statement to Shareholders for the year ended 31st March, 1975 by the Chairman, Mr. C. E. H. Topping, F.R.I.C.S.

- Income maintained despite freeze on all rents during the year under review.
- Enfield Office Development completed within scheduled time and now let to a single tenant at rent of £120,000 per annum.
- Interest paid this year on developments set against revenue for the first time, which accounts for a lower profit figure before taxation.
- Dividends declared for year 3.465p per share, the maximum permitted under current legislation.
- Results are considered satisfactory and, subject to no further adverse legislation, the Directors are confident that the Company will continue to make good progress.

	1975	1974
Gross rental and other income	324,055	317,143
Profit before taxation	97,916	153,301
Taxation	53,582	62,550
Profit available for dividend	44,334	90,751
Earnings per Ordinary Share	4.06p	3.81p
Dividends per Ordinary Share	3.465p	3.195p

The Annual General Meeting was held on 15th July, 1975

Two-year fall likely in industrial and commercial construction

By Malcolm Brown

Construction output will drop 5 per cent this year and a further 4 per cent in 1976, according to forecasts published yesterday by the economic development committees for building and civil engineering.

But housing output, measured in terms of constant (1970) prices, is expected to be much the same as in 1974, with a significant 13 per cent increase in public housing, offsetting a fall of the same size in the private sector.

Next year should see a very modest recovery in housing, but the EDCs predict that this will not be matched in any other sector. The industrial and commercial sectors are expected to have a particularly hard time.

Analysing housing activity in terms of actual units started and completed provides a more complicated picture than that suggested by the output forecasts. It appears doubtful that the recent strong increase in council housing starts will be maintained.

The end-of-year total for council house starts is put at around 155,000, a modest increase of 8,000 over last year. In 1976 the public sector starts figure is expected to fall back to around 140,000 as the growing financial constraints on local authorities begin to bite.

Completions are forecast at 145,000 in 1975 (an increase of 16,000 over 1974) and 160,000 in 1976, but without some boost to the starts programme this figure seems likely to decline later in the decade.

In the private sector house-builders are cautiously and selectively increasing starts. The end-of-year figure for 1975 will probably be around 135,000, an increase of 30,000 over the previous 12 months. In 1976 this could rise to 140,000. Completions are expected to rise by 5,000 to 145,000 in 1975 and then to 160,000 next year.

The forecast for public non-housing construction, measured in real (1970) terms is for a 7 per cent downturn in 1975 with no change in 1976.

In the private industrial sector the EDCs forecast a downturn of 10 per cent in 1975 (excluding oil-related projects) and a further fall of 8 per cent in 1976, but without some boost to the starts programme the forecast is a 10 per cent fall in 1975 and 20 per cent in 1976.

UK fishing industry 'close to collapse'

By Hugh Clayton

The British fishing industry was "very close to a disorderly collapse", Mr Charles Meek, chairman of the Government's White Fish Authority said yesterday. At a press conference to introduce the organization's annual report he said that the £6.25m subsidy awarded in the first half of this year had not led to the expected reversal of the industry's decline.

Speaking on the eve of a meeting with Mr Edward Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Meek said: "The case for further support seems to us to be very strong."

"The Government seems to be very well served of the need for supporting agriculture. If the expansion of the fishing industry cannot be backed by government money then at least its present volume of production ought to be sustained."

He called on the Government to fund a research programme to explore the possibility of a joint operation, and certainly others are likely to be interested."

He said the economic breakpoint for private delivery was probably 1,500 copies within a fairly densely populated area. That would take in most towns as well as larger population concentrations. The most expensive form of delivery, to subscribers in sparsely populated areas, would be left to the Post Office—to the detriment of the Post Office's overall economics.

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Warning to Gatt on rigid objectives

From Alan McGregor

Geneva, July 15

Mr Frederick B. Dem, chief United States negotiator, told the end-of-year trade negotiations committee today that they must not allow themselves to be deterred by the current period of economic downturn, for the changes they were negotiating were long-term ones.

After they must avoid the "pitfalls" of creating public disillusionment with the Tokyo Round by setting too rigid objectives which could not be met—though this did not mean that goals should not be ambitious ones.

With reference to the establishment by Gatt last week of an 18-nation consultative committee, he said it was obvious that developments in world trade required continuing and closer contact between top officials in governments.

There had to be an improved process of consultation and negotiation among trade officials to deal with problems which inevitably arose when economies were more closely linked.

This already existed in the monetary area, he pointed out. A strongly critical note was struck by Brazil and Mexico, whose delegates said progress in the "Tokyo Round" was so slow as to be almost nonexistent.

By contrast, developed countries' delegates took the general line that if no great progress had as yet been achieved this was not surprising in view of the complexity of the negotiations.

Burmah Oil reports successful Thistle test

Burmah Oil Development, operator for the Halibut group, said yesterday it had tested successfully a suspended oil well on the Thistle Field in the North Sea. This partially evaluated well, on block 21/18-8, yielded 4,500 barrels of oil daily through a restricted choke from the main Thistle reservoir.

Overseas owners say western shipbuilders offer credit terms of 8 per cent using Eurodollar funds in addition to normal credit sources the association said. However, in Japan interest rates offered usually exceed 9 per cent because of higher rates charged by commercial banks for their part of package loans with the export-import bank. The export-import bank currently charges 7.25 per cent.

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Banco di Roma silent on Monti loan report

From John Earle

Rome, July 15

Banco di Roma today declined to comment on Italian press reports that it had extended financing of 20,000 lire (about £14m) to Signor Attilio Monti—the sugar, oil refining and newspaper magnate—against collateral of a controlling 51 per cent in his sugar company Eridania. This is Italy's biggest company in the sector, accounting for about a third of national sugar output.

Officials of Banco di Roma, one of the three big publicly owned banks of the IRI group (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) told enquirers that they were not authorized to provide information about normal banking operations.

According to the Milan Corriere Della Sera, Banco di Roma has given Signor Monti the sum of medium-term financing in cash and the remaining 10,000 lire in the form of 25 million shares in Italy's biggest property company, the Società Generale Immobiliare.

Banco di Roma temporarily took control of Generale Immobiliare from Signor Michele Sindona last summer during an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the Italo-American financier's Italian operations.

It subsequently sold the greater part of this holding to a group of Roman building contractors at 600 lire a share. Latterly the company has been the subject of bourse rumours and share price has been lagging.

Corriere Della Sera said that while no one doubted the solidity of Signor Monti's empire, its liquidity had suffered from his unfortunate purchase of British Petroleum Italiana.

Signor Monti, who was already Italy's leading independent oil refiner, forestalled the state corporation ENI in buying it from BP not long before the world oil crisis.

Signor Monti owns a newspaper chain including La Nazione of Florence, Il Resto del Carlino of Bologna, and Il Tevere of Leghorn.

His Eridania sugar company has been involved in controversy with the European Community over free competition regulations.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Recovery prospects at Wilkinson Match

A disappointed market had Wilkinson Match down by 3p earlier today. The highest pre-tax downturn of 31 per cent, working through to a net reduction in reserves of £1.93m (after extraordinary items of £3.6m (chiefly arising from the disposal of the wood chipboard interests), and divided payments, leaves little immediate room for enthusiasm. But Mr. Meacher, then Parliamentary Under Secretary for Industry and chairman of the advisory group, agreed at last to recommend an outline support scheme which it was hoped would be in operation this autumn. But there are now grave doubts that it will ever get off the ground.

In the latest government reshuffle Mr. Meacher, who was regarded by the paper industry as being a reasonably sympathetic to their case, was moved to the Department of Health. His place has been taken by Mr. Gerald Kaufman, as yet an unknown quantity to the paper men who are expecting him to take over as chairman of the group.

The scheme has also been delayed by discussion on the amount to be contributed by the industry itself. Rapidly rising storage costs have been a particular problem.

This latest stock scheme will go before the advisory group again at its next, as yet unscheduled, meeting and then will be passed to the Waste Management Advisory Council.

Level represents about 12 weeks' supply under normal conditions—and is becoming a severe financial headache to the hard-pressed mills.

The paper and board makers have told the Government that waste stocks should be as high as 600,000 tonnes, particularly if the plan to increase the annual consumption of waste from 2.1 million tonnes to 3.2 million tonnes by 1980 is to succeed. But the money to finance such a huge waste

now bulging at the seams, with stocks of waste rotting in open yards.

Stocks of all types of waste paper and board now total 230,000 tonnes and in the first five months of the year rose by almost 123 per cent on the same period of 1974. The stock

and the Treasury. But, as Mr. H. K. W. Hodges, secretary of the JWPAC, put it: "We are more than a little apprehensive. How sympathetic can the Treasury be when they are basically bankrupt?"

The gravity of the paper supply and cost situation that Europe faces in the next few years has been underlined by Mr. Edward Walker of the marketing research company BIS, which recently completed an important survey on the future for secondary fibre in Europe.

In the trade journal *Paper*, Mr. Walker says that over the next 10 years a further 6.5 million tonnes of waste paper will be needed, throughout the EEC.

"If mills are to obtain the fibre they require at a cost which will not price them out of the market."

"This will imply a raising of EEC waste paper recovery levels to 35 per cent and an increase in the average waste content of mills' fibre input to 51 per cent."

Despite a good recycling record in European countries and the development, particularly in the United Kingdom, of techniques such as the deinking of newsprint, these targets can be met, Mr. Walker says, "only if action is taken now to ensure that the necessary technical development and investment is put in hand."

Domestic refuse remains the one big untapped source of waste paper but, again, local authorities must be sure of their outlets if they are to expand their collection services. Housewaste Mr. Hodges of the JWPAC said, have shown that they will only segregate waste if they think the job is worthwhile.

"It is vital that we utilize all our indigenous raw material," he said. "In the future we might even have to look at the possibility of using straw and other types of fibre as a substitute for virgin pulp."

"What is clear is that our Government has a moral obligation to help the paper industry. A little money spent now will prove in the future to be a very good investment for the nation as a whole."

Admittedly, interest charges are sharply up from £1.8m to £3m, but the gearing ratios are not so high as against M as seemed possible at the time. Shareholders' funds are down by around £5m to £4.4m, thanks in part to £3m exchange loss, but net borrowings are unlikely to have risen by much more than £5m in the previous year's £14.5m.

25.6m including the conversion, and still left to be at a comfortable enough level. The current cash situation seems wholly satisfactory, moreover. For the shares, currently selling at 9.1 per cent and selling at 9.2 times earnings, all is in a moderately encouraging light. In the chief trouble areas and some of the remaining likely to go soon, the trading situation ought now to be showing some improvement, especially given that price increases on the critical match are now beginning to show their worth.

Final: 1974-5 (1973-4) Capitalization £25.7m Sales £145m (£132m) Pre-tax profits £7.77m (£11.28m) Dividend gross, 10.5p (10.5p)

MC low for new terms

What the Monopolies Commission has decided that a merger between FMC and The U Development Trust "may be expected to operate against the public interest", the action for FMC shareholders the level at which the Trust will feel it necessary to pitch renewed offer to secure itself control. On that basis, the fact that the present situation is obviously intolerable. On the other hand, FMC shareholders, with improved offers, steady margins and a per cent yield at 76p under the offer, are not likely to let out for pleasure.

Certainly the Trust's original offer has been well and fully superseded by events. But that 40.9 per cent existing stake in FMC still leaves the 1st very strongly placed. It is not much in the way of persuasion to be done to the recall of the Trust in an unstable minority position. And, in the Commission's view that FMC's clearing bank is conditional upon the party seeking to raise additional equity capital when circumstances are favourable, the company has now been

advised to consider a "rights" issue of loan capital, will be in a position to strengthen the bidder's hand.

Final: 1974-5 (1973-4) Capitalization £7.6m Sales £270m (£245m) Pre-tax profits £4.09m (£3.64m) Earnings per share 17.95p (16.19p) Dividend Gross 7.58p (3.30p)

Pilkington Justifying the rating

Deepening recession, particularly in the world motor industry, has left some fairly deep scars on the Pilkington profit and loss account in the year to end-March, and with the group cutting back still further in engineering areas in 1975—float lines have been temporarily closed within the United Kingdom and North America—prospects for the current year might, at least on the surface look none too bright either.

Certainly, off-take from the motor industry remains extremely poor, but that is not to say that all is gloom. There are tentative signs in some countries of a revival in construction industry demand, the new Australian float-line is back on stream after the repositioning of tariffs and the on-going problem facing fibreglass insulation—obviously of considerable medium-term potential—is the struggle to meet demand.

Overall profitability should, moreover, increasingly start to see the benefits of both the realignment of production—the concentration of production leading to significantly better capacity utilization—and some recovery in licensing income now that prices in many overseas markets are showing signs of hardening. The world-wide capacity is cut back. Much of this cut-back, incidentally, appears to be taking the form of the early phasing out of obsolescent sheet plant, leaving Pilkington with the prospect of an acceleration in demand for new float lines.

As far as financing goes, Pilkington looks to be in a reasonably happy position. True, inflation and stockbuilding (ahead of plant closures) combined to push year-end stocks up from £42.6m to £64.4m, creating a net short-term cash surplus of £3.4m into a deficit of £17m, but the combination of the £15m FCI loan and a £35m loan from International Westminster should cover the bulk of the capital spending requirement this year, leaving remaining requirements to be financed largely from internal resources.

At 201p the shares are on a fairly demanding rating with a p/e of 10 and yield of 6.6 per cent. But with its broad international spread and medium-term recovery prospects Pilkington should be able to justify its status.

Accounts: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £121m Net assets £174m (£188m) Borrowings £33.4m (£20.2m) Pre-tax profit £23.4m (£43.8m) Earnings per share 12.8p (34.3p)

H. P. Bulmer Gains market share

H. P. Bulmer could well be over the hump. After a disappointing first half, which saw a halving in pre-tax profits to £430,000 as a result of bottle shortages and negligible volume growth in cider sales, there has

been a strong resurgence in the closing six months—sufficient to push profits for this year to £1.26m, and April marginally ahead to £1.26m.

Price increases played their part, with a 14 per cent adjustment in September followed by a further 15 per cent as from the beginning of April, of which half was for profit recovery and has still to be reflected in the current year figures. Additionally, volume is now on the upswing, with a 7 per cent improvement in the second half. This indicates a useful improvement in market share given a national increase in cider sales during calendar 1974 of a mere 0.2 per cent to 39.1m gallons—only 3 per cent of beer consumption.

While interest charges alone doubled to £1.03m—borrowings rose £2m to £16.1m—the stock appreciation measures effectively wipe out the notional tax charge of £623,000, being worth around £1.1m in cash terms overall. Interest charges should, therefore, be on the decline in 1975/76.

At 57p, the shares are selling at 9.3 times earnings and yield 7.1 per cent, probably suitable discounts on the brewery sector averages. But with prospects of profits attaining a record level this year Bulmer is certainly a stronghold—underpinned by the argument that the "agriculture" stocks must be right in the long term.

Final: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £5.7m Sales £17.8m (£15.0m) Pre-tax profits £1.26m (£1.24m) Earnings per share 6.1p (6.5p) Dividend gross 4.0p (3.65p)

Hawker Siddeley Diversification portents

The deal that Hawker Siddeley is doing with Studebaker-Worthington over Onan Corporation provides an example of what the United Kingdom group will presumably be hoping to do on a much larger scale, assuming that nationalisation of its United Kingdom aerospace assets goes ahead. However, the United States exercise is very interesting in its own right to Hawker.

Even on the basis of Onan's \$8.43m net income in 1974, Hawker reckons that the £40m compensation it received in respect of de Havilland, Canada, would be producing better returns in dollars than it did in aerospace. (The fact that the money has since been earning up to 14 per cent gross on short term deposit in the United States is hardly material given the recent decline in short term rates.)

The real point is that, though Hawker is buying Onan on an historic p/e of around 11 the prospective multiple is probably much lower.

Diesel technology was relatively neglected in the United States in the days of cheap fuel. Now that they are gone that technology is in high demand and one way for Studebaker to buy it rapidly is to give Hawker an equity stake in Onan, on relatively favourable terms, in return for licensing Peter designs. Through that equity stake, Hawker stands to gain a considerable earnings boost in the medium term as the United States diesel market—now three-quarters dependent on imports—is supplied from internal sources. The deal seems a good portent of Hawker's ability to redeploy compensation imaginatively, a significant factor for the shares in the run-up to United Kingdom nationalisation.

Edward Townsend on the difficulties created by recession in the paper industry

Ironies of the waste paper mountain

As talks drag on between the Government and Britain's paper makers over increasingly urgent requests for help in financing waste paper stocks the paper industry might be accused of being more than a little cynical about the possible outcome.

The mill owners, inundated with unprecedented amounts of waste, have seen three successive governments try with the idea of providing some sort of cash support, but to date no practical action has been taken.

The paper companies, in the grip of their worst ever slump, say that the situation has now gone too far for government help to have any effect. All they can realistically hope for is a long-term commitment from Whitehall—an agreement in principle that will bolster the confidence of the 350 local authorities that operate paper collection services and of the industry as a whole.

Yet observers of the paper scene see the widespread development of recycling as crucial to the future. Only if urgent steps are taken now to stimulate investment in the collection and processing of secondary fibre can the effects of the massive pulp shortage and bounding prices expected by 1980 be alleviated.

The waste paper business has been bedevilled by cyclical fluctuations for half a century, but it was not until September, 1973, that the paper and board companies, through their federation, went to Whitehall with their own excess stock support scheme. Nine months later, the Labour Government set up an Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling and the industry has been faced with a 25 per cent cut in demand and the prospect of a very real danger that a general pruning of expenditure will lead to many of them pulling out of the waste collection business.

Today there are still piles of unwanted waste stored in huts and church halls and the paper companies, which at first accepted more waste than they could use to try to maintain the collecting structure, are

In September last year came the Government's Green Paper *Waste on Waste* which confirmed the setting up of a high-

powered Waste Management Advisory Council. It also made the point that "despite the good record of the industry, increasing demands for timber makes it essential that we make even greater use of waste paper" and added that coordinated planning "is essential to ensure that the paper industry can absorb the increased arisings on a continuous and long-term basis."

The Green Paper stressed that the first priority of the advisory group was to consider what incentives were needed "to ensure the maximum possible economic use of this valuable indigenous raw material". Ten months later, the Joint Waste Paper Advisory Council (JWPAC), an independent body of mill, merchant and local authority representatives, is still calling for these incentives to be translated into action.

At that period, however, the paper business has faced difficult times. Last December the slump arrived and the bottom fell out of the waste paper market almost overnight. Scouts, schoolchildren and members of voluntary organisations who had trudged diligently through the streets collecting a record 200,000 tonnes of old newspapers and magazines during the year suddenly found that nobody wanted to buy the stuff from them.

The price for baled mixed waste paper delivered to the mills plummeted from £30 to its present level of £21-£22 a tonne, with much less for the individual collector, and the industry announced that it could no longer afford to accept supplies from voluntary collectors.

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and the Treasury. But, as Mr. H. K. W. Hodges, secretary of the JWPAC, put it: "We are more than a little apprehensive. How sympathetic can the Treasury be when they are basically bankrupt?"

The gravity of the paper supply and cost situation that Europe faces in the next few years has been underlined by Mr. Edward Walker of the marketing research company BIS, which recently completed an important survey on the future for secondary fibre in Europe.

In the trade journal *Paper*, Mr. Walker says that over the next 10 years a further 6.5 million tonnes of waste paper will be needed, throughout the EEC.

"If mills are to obtain the fibre they require at a cost which will not price them out of the market."

"This will imply a raising of EEC waste paper recovery levels to 35 per cent and an increase in the average waste content of mills' fibre input to 51 per cent."

Despite a good recycling record in European countries and the development, particularly in the United Kingdom, of techniques such as the deinking of newsprint, these targets can be met, Mr. Walker says, "only if action is taken now to ensure that the necessary technical development and investment is put in hand."

Domestic refuse remains the one big untapped source of waste paper but, again, local authorities must be sure of their outlets if they are to expand their collection services. Housewaste Mr. Hodges of the JWPAC said, have shown that they will only segregate waste if they think the job is worthwhile.

"It is vital that we utilize all our indigenous raw material," he said. "In the future we might even have to look at the possibility of using straw and other types of fibre as a substitute for virgin pulp."

"What is clear is that our Government has a moral obligation to help the paper industry. A little money spent now will prove in the future to be a very good investment for the nation as a whole."

Admittedly, interest charges are sharply up from £1.8m to £3m, but the gearing ratios are not so high as against M as seemed possible at the time. Shareholders' funds are down by around £5m to £4.4m, thanks in part to £3m exchange loss, but net borrowings are unlikely to have risen by much more than £5m in the previous year's £14.5m.

25.6m including the conversion, and still left to be at a comfortable enough level. The current cash situation seems wholly satisfactory, moreover. For the shares, currently selling at 9.1 per cent and selling at 9.2 times earnings, all is in a moderately encouraging light. In the chief trouble areas and some of the remaining likely to go soon, the trading situation ought now to be showing some improvement, especially given that price increases on the critical match are now beginning to show their worth.

Final: 1974-5 (1973-4) Capitalization £25.7m Sales £145m (£132m) Pre-tax profits £7.77m (£11.28m) Dividend gross, 10.5p (10.5p)

MC low for new terms

What the Monopolies Commission has decided that a merger between FMC and The U Development Trust "may be expected to operate against the public interest", the action for FMC shareholders the level at which the Trust will feel it necessary to pitch renewed offer to secure itself control. On that basis, the fact that the present situation is obviously intolerable. On the other hand, FMC shareholders, with improved offers, steady margins and a per cent yield at 76p under the offer, are not likely to let out for pleasure.

Certainly the Trust's original offer has been well and fully superseded by events. But that 40.9 per cent existing stake in FMC still leaves the 1st very strongly placed. It is not much in the way of persuasion to be done to the recall of the Trust in an unstable minority position. And, in the Commission's view that FMC's clearing bank is conditional upon the party seeking to raise additional equity capital when circumstances are favourable, the company has now been

advised to consider a "rights" issue of loan capital, will be in a position to strengthen the bidder's hand.

Final: 1974-5 (1973-4) Capitalization £7.6m Sales £270m (£245m) Pre-tax profits £4.09m (£3.64m) Earnings per share 17.95p (16.19p) Dividend Gross 7.58p (3.30p)

Pilkington Justifying the rating

Deepening recession, particularly in the world motor industry, has left some fairly deep scars on the Pilkington profit and loss account in the year to end-March, and with the group cutting back still further in engineering areas in 1975—float lines have been temporarily closed within the United Kingdom and North America—prospects for the current year might, at least on the surface look none too bright either.

Certainly, off-take from the motor industry remains extremely poor, but that is not to say that all is gloom. There are tentative signs in some countries of a revival in construction industry demand, the new Australian float-line is back on stream after the repositioning of tariffs and the on-going problem facing fibreglass insulation—obviously of considerable medium-term potential—is the struggle to meet demand.

Overall profitability should, moreover, increasingly start to see the benefits of both the realignment of production—the concentration of production leading to significantly better capacity utilization—and some recovery in licensing income now that prices in many overseas markets are showing signs of hardening. The world-wide capacity is cut back. Much of this cut-back, incidentally, appears to be taking the form of the early phasing out of obsolescent sheet plant, leaving Pilkington with the prospect of an acceleration in demand for new float lines.

As far as financing goes, Pilkington looks to be in a reasonably happy position. True, inflation and stockbuilding (ahead of plant closures) combined to push year-end stocks up from £42.6m to £64.4m, creating a net short-term cash surplus of £3.4m into a deficit of £17m, but the combination of the £15m FCI loan and a £35m loan from International Westminster should cover the bulk of the capital spending requirement this year, leaving remaining requirements to be financed largely from internal resources.

At 201p the shares are on a fairly demanding rating with a p/e of 10 and yield of 6.6 per cent. But with its broad international spread and medium-term recovery prospects Pilkington should be able to justify its status.

Accounts: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £121m Net assets £174m (£188m) Borrowings £33.4m (£20.2m) Pre-tax profit £23.4m (£43.8m) Earnings per share 12.8p (34.3p)

H. P. Bulmer Gains market share

H. P. Bulmer could well be over the hump. After a disappointing first half, which saw a halving in pre-tax profits to £430,000 as a result of bottle shortages and negligible volume growth in cider sales, there has

been a strong resurgence in the closing six months—sufficient to push profits for this year to £1.26m, and April marginally ahead to £1.26m.

Price increases played their part, with a 14 per cent adjustment in September followed by a further 15 per cent as from the beginning of April, of which half was for profit recovery and has still to be reflected in the current year figures. Additionally, volume is now on the upswing, with a 7 per cent improvement in the second half. This indicates a useful improvement in market share given a national increase in cider sales during calendar 1974 of a mere 0.2 per cent to 39.1m gallons—only 3 per cent of beer consumption.

While interest charges alone doubled to £1.03m—borrowings rose £2m to £16.1m—the stock appreciation measures effectively wipe out the notional tax charge of £623,000, being worth around £1.1m in cash terms overall. Interest charges should, therefore, be on the decline in 1975/76.

At 57p, the shares are selling at 9.3 times earnings and yield 7.1 per cent, probably suitable discounts on the brewery sector averages. But with prospects of profits attaining a record level this year Bulmer is certainly a stronghold—underpinned by the argument that the "agriculture" stocks must be right in the long term.

Final: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £5.7m Sales £17.8m (£15.0m) Pre-tax profits £1.26m (£1.24m) Earnings per share 6.1p (6.5p) Dividend gross 4.0p (3.65p)

Hawker Siddeley Diversification portents

The deal that Hawker Siddeley is doing with Studebaker-Worthington over Onan Corporation provides an example of what the United Kingdom group will presumably be hoping to do on a much larger scale, assuming that nationalisation of its United Kingdom aerospace assets goes ahead. However, the United States exercise is very interesting in its own right to Hawker.

Even on the basis of Onan's \$8.43m net income in 1974, Hawker reckons that the £40m compensation it received in respect of de Havilland, Canada, would be producing better returns in dollars than it did in aerospace. (The fact that the money has since been earning up to 14 per cent gross on short term deposit in the United States is hardly material given the recent decline in short term rates.)

The real point is that, though Hawker is buying Onan on an historic p/e of around 11 the prospective multiple is probably much lower.

Diesel technology was relatively neglected in the United States in the days of cheap fuel. Now that they are gone that technology is in high demand and one way for Studebaker to buy it rapidly is to give Hawker an equity stake in Onan, on relatively favourable terms, in return for licensing Peter designs. Through that equity stake, Hawker stands to gain a considerable earnings boost in the medium term as the United States diesel market—now three-quarters dependent on imports—is supplied from internal sources. The deal seems a good portent of Hawker's ability to redeploy compensation imaginatively, a significant factor for the shares in the run-up to United Kingdom nationalisation.

Technical innovation of a high order gained Peter Ganderton and Peter Jeppesen of Antonine one of the two TDC runners-up prizes. Working as a team, they devised a new slimline pushbutton tuning mechanism for car radio/cassette players which has been taken up under licence by a leading American company.

Ganderton is the designer and production man and Jeppesen, marketing and commercial. Together, they own the business. Also developed by Ganderton, the other runner-up, is an unusual brand of entrepreneur. As Yorkshire and Lancashire regional director of Associated Heat Services, partly owned by the National Coal Board, he is a professional manager with a good track record in a large organization (his regional turnover is £2m a year).

But one and a half days a week he works as boss (and 33 per cent of the labour force) of Greenforce, his own company. Here he has developed an ingenious and economical coal burner for industrial boilers.

Later, when the time is right and venture capital has been arranged, he intends to go full-time with Greenforce.

Sir Frank Schön, chairman of the National Research Development Corporation, selected the winners and yesterday presented the awards. The 89 entrants had to submit a business plan for commercially exploiting an innovation and breaking even within three years on no more than £150,000 of new capital.

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MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Shares regain most of Monday's losses but trading is thin

The feeling that equities may have been oversold of late and the continuing firmness of gilt-edged securities brought a rally on the London stock market yesterday.

After making steady progress all day the FT index closed 7.2 points better at 312.7, largely offsetting Monday's decline. But at 5.12 the number of bargains struck was almost 900 down on the previous day and dealers were describing the session as thin and largely professional.

The latter category now includes some of the institutions. It is a feature which has only emerged this year and one which many dealers find disquieting. What will happen, they ask, when the time comes to do real business?

The dominant part being played by the fixed-interest

market at present is brought out strongly by official figures for the last account which ended on Friday.

These show that the total value of all bargains was almost doubled from £2,682.96m in the previous account to £5,223.33m. Equities, though, had a more

The market expects Thorn Electrical's pre-tax profits, due to day, to dip from £74.1m to around £63m. Should they prove to be better dealers feel the shares are sufficiently discounted to see a sharp rise. The "A" shares closed 6p better, at 156p.

modest increase from £517.98m to £581.91m.

Although gilts were again quieter than last week the under-

tone continued firm and prices advanced in all sections of the market. Dealers said that there were no obvious new developments to explain the further rise, but the background of deepening recession was still favourable.

Some of the best gains came from the industrial leaders where ICI (261p) recouped half of Monday's loss and Glaxo (358p), Beechams (290p) and Fisons (363p) put on 15p, 11p and 9p. Though more modest gains were also seen in the big engineering firms with GKN 5p better, at 212p, and Tube Investments adding 4p to 250p.

Another "blue chip" making a better than average advance was Unilever, 12p firmer to 380p.

After their recent weakness on margin and consumer spending worries stores made a good

recovery. Prominent were British Home, up 15p to 292p, Boots, 11p to 197p, and Marks & Spencer, 9p to 103p. With results due tomorrow Gus also did well and the "A" shares closed 8p better, at 151p.

Insurances stayed narrowly mixed but after their recent depression properties were firmer with MEPC 106p, Stock Conversion 131p, and Peachey, in front of tomorrow's figures, up to 4p better. Fresh bid talk excited Furness Withy to the extent of 14p to 225p while BFM (Birmingham Post) lost 9p to 18p.

Oils were a firm pitch. BP ended 17p better, at 550p, Shell rose 6p to 316p and even Burmah (33p) was 2p firmer after an appraisal of the Thistle Field in the North Sea. Gold shares made a drab showing

with the lower metal price and the disappointing quarterly results led to losses of up to 75p among the "heavies".

A £600,000 rights from Crossley Building initially clipped a

With two schools of thought on what next week's meeting will produce, Cowiutids is proving an odd, but steady market. Some expect gloomy news, others feel the worst may be past. Among some big gains from the lenders the shares closed 3p firmer to 121p.

couple of pence off but this was later regained and the share closed at an unchanged 54p.

Sharply lower profit clipped 3p to 115p from Wilkinson Match while the reverse was

true of EMC which closed 5p firmer, at 75p. A confident statement from the chairman and better profits helped Howden Group (up 3p to 75p), BP Bulmer added a penny to 57p after a similar return, and Thermal Syndicate lost 3p to 29p. National Carbonising were still a soft spot after unfavourable comment and lost another 3p to 37p; Wedgwood with its annual meeting today, lost 4p to 168p.

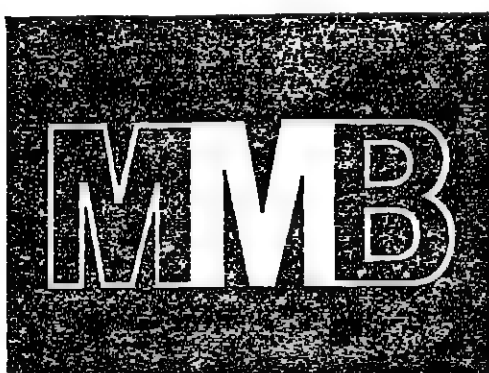
Equity turnover on July 14 was 541.75m (15,756 bargains).

According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were ICI, Boverton, Gus "A", BP, Distillers, Shell, Marks & Spencer, Boots, British American Tobacco, Racal, British Home Stores and Furness Wilby.

Latest dividends

Company (and par values)	Ord div	Year	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Bogod-Peleph (10p) Fin	0.5	0.68†	—	0.85	0.68†
IL P. Bulmer (25p) Fin	1.77	1.62	15/9	2.65	2.5
C.S.C. Inv (25p) Int	1.46	1.4	5/9	—	2.9
F.M.C. (25p) Int	2.5	1.37	29/8	5.0	2.25
Glass, Glover (5p) Int	0.39	0.4†	1/10	—	1.3†
Howden Group (25p) Fin	3.06	2.78	—	4.47	4.19
Mann & Overton (25p) Int	0.94	0.88	1/10	—	2.92
Meggitt Hlids (5p) Int	0.15	0.13	6/10	—	0.3
Meldrum Inv (25p) Int	0.52	0.5†	5/9	—	1.4
Refidusion Hlids Fin	2.25	1.82	1/10	2.25	5.3
Richardsons, Westgarth (50p) Fin	2.52	2.32	1/10	3.57	3.37
Romney Tst (25p) Int	0.7	0.7	21/8	—	1.11
Scot Northern Inv (25p) Int	0.81	0.83	5/9	—	2.53
Stanhope Gen Inv (25p) Fin	1.49	1.45	8/8	2.29	2.2
Stoneylands Sp (10p) Fin	0.9†	1.17	—	2.77†	1.8†
Thermal Synd (25p) Int	1.0	1.0	11/9	—	2.35
Widkisson Match (1s) Fin	4.0	4.13	1/10	6.89	7.14
Wright-Scriven (121p) Fin	0.77	0.67	—	1.1	1.02

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax in pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. † Adjusted scrip. ‡ For 12 month period.



THE MILK MARKETING BOARD Annual General Meeting

DAIRY INDUSTRY AT CRISIS POINT

Urgent and substantial cash injection needed

Address by the Chairman, Sir Richard Trehane

On this occasion last year I had to speak of the gravest situation position the industry had ever known and, with the collapse of the beef market and calf prices a few months later, the position subsequently became even worse. The seriousness of the problems was clear to us at the time and was firmly demonstrated to Government by the Board, the National Farmers' Union and the Dairy Trade Federation in private and also, in public, before the Select Committee on Expenditure of the House of Commons. Eventually Government increased the guaranteed price in October by 7.7p per gallon and introduced the slaughter premiums for beef which steadied and finally brought about a modest recovery in the calf market. Only the Government's White Paper after the February 1975 Review did the gravity of this situation show up in the official figures.

THE CASH CRISIS

The estimates of net farm income declined in money terms in 1974/75 for the first time for many years with the decline of course heavily concentrated in the livestock sector. This decline in income in 1974/75, notwithstanding the large increase in prices, has led, in the first half of 1975, to a most acute cash crisis, in which the inadequacy of the level of past incomes to finance the level of "work in progress", and still leave sufficient money for farmers to live on, has inevitably created a serious loss of confidence amongst them.

With their disposable income sharply reduced by increased borrowings and the interest charges on these, the price received has been quite insufficient to regenerate the reserves lost in the past two years. Other factors which have, of course, created further difficulty and uncertainty include the general inflationary spiral, from which everyone has suffered in recent months, and the Government's proposals of capital, investment, which seem to have a justifiable effect on farmers. These severe financial difficulties for a very large body of producers have unfortunately been added to at critical seasons during the year by some of the most adverse weather conditions within memory.

The collapse of confidence and general distrust in the future of the industry is manifest in the very high level of slaughtering, the sharp decline in dairy cow numbers and the steep fall in the number of cows inseminated in recent months. Many producers have undoubtedly tried to relieve their cash position by the sale of older cows on a very favourable market—a form of disinvestment or "living on capital". More producers have left milk production in one year than at any time in the last twenty years. The 58,000 milk producers who remain in business do so with severely reduced financial resources and with many facing interest charges which are a serious erosion of their margins. It is in this context that we view the Government's White Paper "Food from our Own Resources".

GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER ON EXPANSION

The Government published this White Paper in April and happily it embraces many arguments that had been put forward by the industry and, by no means least, by your Board, for the expansion of home agriculture, and the dairy and sugar beet sectors in particular. As a Government policy statement the White Paper presented the most powerful case for expansion of United Kingdom dairy farming that has so far come in any official statement on agricultural policy. The Board welcomed this immediately on its appearance and promised full co-operation with Government in its endeavour to fulfil the aim of a 20 per cent expansion of milk production above the 1973/74 level by 1980.

Milk producers gripped by the severe depletion of their cash resources clearly cannot at present contemplate expansion and it is obvious enough why they should have reacted to the White Paper with such cynicism. Its weakness is that it provides no analysis of the capital problems of the industry and the resources needed to achieve expansion. This matter, which is the hub of the issue, is reserved for further study. I must however take this opportunity to tell producers not only that discussions have been taking place in Whitehall in recent weeks but that, with the commitment of the White Paper, the industry's case has been listened to more attentively than I have ever known before in such discussions.

Furthermore, I am sure it has not escaped attention that the gravity of the problem and the need for an urgent and satisfactory solution has been firmly spelled out in the last few weeks by a number of important Government Ministers in addition to the Minister of Agriculture and, in particular, both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have spoken. May I repeat a sentence by the Prime Minister when he opened the Royal Show: "The argument for expanding agricultural output today—and for help to do it—rests on grounds which the most hard-bitten economist, the most dispassionate industrial consultant, would accept." How much we agree with this and how urgently we look for the promised Government action.

It would be a tragedy if, in its proper preoccupation with the control of inflation—and we support this totally—Government were to overlook the measures which are needed now to rescue and revitalise the dairy industry so that it can make its much-needed contribution to an improvement in the country's balance of payments.

OUR COMPETITIVE STRENGTH

There has been much discussion in the press of the possibility of a devaluation of the "Green £" as the way out of our difficulties. There is no doubt that the device of the "Green £", with the United Kingdom guaranteed price now fixed in the Community's "unit of account", has been a means of holding down the milk price paid to producers in this country. Its abolition, taken with the remaining steps in transition and a reasonable premium from the liquid market obtainable under open international competition, could add something of the order of 10 pence per gallon to producer prices. Instead of a price of 35.5p per gallon from September onwards, we could be talking about a price of 45.5p per gallon. This enormous gap between ourselves and the price to milk producers elsewhere in the Community demonstrates the tremendous competitive strength that dairy farming has in comparison with milk producers in other countries and in comparison with the competitive strength of manufacturing industry, which is having an appalling struggle to compete in many sectors even at the low and competitively favourable floating rate of exchange. Government must act quickly to see to it that the very great strength they have in future negotiations in Brussels on CAP matters through the competitive strength of dairy farming is

not frittered away by allowing the industry to go into irretrievable decline. Confidence must be re-established to preserve and improve our position.

WANTED—AN EEC DAIRY POLICY

In the recent Referendum the country gave an overwhelming endorsement of United Kingdom membership of the European Community and I believe this was the right decision for the benefit of dairy farmers. My view on this is in no small measure influenced by the considerable achievements of those involved in the pre-Referendum negotiations in Brussels which have led to the introduction of very considerable flexibility in what previously appeared to be the very rigid arrangements of the Common Agricultural Policy. I pay tribute to these negotiators and to the Government who have secured the transitional arrangements for United Kingdom entry. These arrangements were planned to provide an orderly transition based on the assumption that the costs of animal feedstuffs would rise in measured progression throughout the transitional period with the price of milk doing likewise. As we all know, these plans were thrown entirely out of gear by the dramatic rises in feed costs eighteen months ago, and it was this, more than anything else, which created difficulties in the transitional arrangements as negotiated.

We are very glad to have the assurance of Government that they see no conflict between the plans for expansion of milk production in the United Kingdom and the views on milk expressed in the recent EEC Commission "Stocktaking" document, which states bluntly that there is a structural surplus of milk in the Community that must be removed promptly.

It will not be surprising if we take a somewhat different view of this matter, for our approach has always been expansionist. We have sought to find new markets and develop existing ones. In order to ensure that increasing supplies of milk can be profitably marketed, we can therefore scarcely be expected to accept the restrictionist philosophy that runs through the Stocktaking proposals for milk. One cannot, of course, expect the Community to underwrite an unlimited volume of production, irrespective of market potential, but restriction should be the last resort, not the first.

Nowhere in these proposals can one find recognition of the fact that the EEC dairy industry has always been partly as a result of what they have seen in the United Kingdom—of the potential for expanding markets by promotion if all sectors of the industry pull together. It would require only a modest injection of funds by the Community to bring all the dairy interests together into a European milk promotion programme, drawing the bulk of the resources required from the industry itself. A Community contribution to this programme would not, in the long run, even be a cost to the EEC. In time, the stimulus to consumer demand would enable products to be sold profitably on the commercial markets that are now being bought by the intervention agencies, and not always sold profitably.

In a limited way, the Commission and Member governments have already recognized the value of promotion, for the Community has set under way a publicity campaign for beef. But the industry has seen in the United Kingdom—of the potential for expanding markets by promotion if all sectors of the industry pull together. It would require only a modest injection of funds by the Community to bring all the dairy interests together into a European milk promotion programme, drawing the bulk of the resources required from the industry itself. A Community contribution to this programme would not, in the long run, even be a cost to the EEC. In time, the stimulus to consumer demand would enable products to be sold profitably on the commercial markets that are now being bought by the intervention agencies, and not always sold profitably.

EEC EXPORT POLICY

We also believe that the time has come to reconsider the Community approach to the export market. For too long, exports have tended to be regarded principally as a means of surplus disposal. Restrictions, and the administrative measures surrounding them, have been adjusted in a way that has inhibited the attempts of exporters to build up long-term viable markets in third countries. The Commission is aware of this and now proposes that ways should be found of making long-term export supply agreements. Whatever the mechanisms, it is imperative that the Community should establish itself as a reliable long-term supplier in world markets if it is to secure its fair share of the growing demand for milk and milk products in the developing countries. As a corollary, the Community must regard supplies for these countries as on a par with supplies required to satisfy the Community market in its assessment of the desirable level of milk production within the Community.

May I suggest that a similar approach should be made by the Community to its food aid programmes. The World Food Conference, held in Rome last November, highlighted the extent to which the developed countries had failed to discharge their obligations to the developing world. This will always be the case if food aid is regarded as the sink into which surpluses are poured. Furthermore, the infrastructure to handle food aid supplies will be created, and the wastages and frauds that, sadly, occur from time to time will be avoided, only if supplies are assured year in, year out. One has but to see the progress that has been made in India, through "Operation Flood", to realize how much can be achieved when development is planned on an integral long-term basis. Our European countries do themselves little credit when they operate food aid programmes for dairy products as now, making available variable, modest supplies according to the stocks held by intervention agencies. We would strongly support a move by the Community to go into the third world and plan with the people there how best to develop the facilities for using food aid supplies on the basis of long-term firm commitments.

CAP CAN PROTECT CONSUMERS

A re-thinking of the purpose and attitude towards intervention stocks may also be useful. These tend to be seen principally as an indicator of surplus production, whereas their function as a buffer between variations in supply and demand must not be overlooked. We have recently seen that the CAP can protect consumers by making available additional supplies when markets are under strain and this demonstrates that the CAP is not a one-sided policy whose only function is to protect producers, as many of its critics have claimed. But the CAP cannot work in the consumer interest unless there are reserves in the system. Intervention stocks are the most important element of these reserves. It is therefore wrong to pick a figure to represent the danger level for such stocks without first making an analysis of the severity of shortages that may occur and which the policy must guard against if the CAP is also to serve the consumer's interest.

In order to do this, there is no need to gaze into a crystal ball; the figures are in the records. Between 1965 and 1971, for example, there was a fall in production of butter in the original "Six" members of the EEC of about 140,000 tons—a decline of about 10 per cent. This came about as a result of measures taken to restrict milk production. The fall in supplies had very little effect on consumers in the "Six" because there were sufficient reserves available. However, at the same time, there was a shortfall of imports into the United Kingdom from its main suppliers outside the EEC of over 100,000 tons, leaving a gap that EEC suppliers could not fill. Despite substantial imports from the United States, the price of butter in the United Kingdom rose in less than two years by more than 80 per cent. In future, as a member of the Community, the United Kingdom could not be left alone to bear the brunt of shortages; the deficit would have to be shared by the rest of the EEC. The repercussions on their market would therefore be much more severe than they were at that time.

This is not an isolated example. In 1959, mainly because of a dry summer in Europe, butter production in the main producing countries declined by as little as 2½ per cent. But this was sufficient to double prices on the British market—which was then the best indicator of conditions in the world market—while both Germany and France had to import substantial quantities of butter. Again, in 1963, drought in Europe, following a harsh winter, reduced supplies marginally with severe effects on prices in the United Kingdom.

STRATEGIC STOCK LEVELS

The reasons for the sensitivity of prices to small changes in supplies are not hard to find. In the first place, international trade in dairy products is small compared with total production. Only 4.5 per cent of the milk produced is traded internationally in the form of dairy products. When production falls, in most countries the domestic market supplies are secured first, with the result that all the burden of adjustment falls on the small proportion of products entering international markets. Secondly, consumers are reluctant to change their consumption habits for dairy products; consequently, large price changes are required to adjust consumption to modest changes in supplies. Because of these two factors, the line between surplus and deficit of dairy products is a very thin one. It is important for Community policy that the margin of safety be enlarged if the policy is to continue to serve producer and consumer alike.

At the end of last season, stocks in the countries for which figures are available, were equal to only five weeks' production. The Community must recognize that it is too big a consumer of dairy products to be able to offset a deficit in its own supplies by buying on the international market. A fall in its own production of butter of as little as 100,000 tons—which is only about 6.7 per cent—at a time when stocks were low, could not be made up by importing. Which of the possible suppliers outside the EEC could possibly meet such a requirement? Certainly not New Zealand, which will be unable to meet its quota this year; nor Australia, where the decline in milk production shows no sign of being reversed. The United States has a small surplus of butter at the moment but can hardly be regarded as a reliable source of supplies while the Soviet Union and East European countries have their own milk supply problems.

Though this may not be the occasion for a discussion of international politics, one cannot overlook the fact that more and more suppliers of commodities to the world market are imitating—with varying degrees of success—the action taken by oil producers in the OPEC countries. It is by no means impossible that suppliers of dairy products could take similar action. Such a possibility reinforces the need for the EEC to ensure that it can meet its requirements from its own farms.

Finally, it must be remembered that, in the context of the GATT negotiations, the Community has submitted proposals for international commodity agreements which, for dairy products, involve guarantees of supplies to buyers when prices reach a pre-determined limit. Such guarantees can have no meaning unless they are underwritten by stocks. The appropriate action at the present time must therefore be to undertake a study to determine the stock requirements of the Community in the light of its various commitments, and not to pre-judge the issue by talking of structural surpluses.

UK MARKET SITUATION

Taking a more detailed look at the overall market situation within the United Kingdom, I must repeat that, with the fall in milk production and the expansion of demand, we have found ourselves in the frustrating position of supplying a shrinking share of our own market. In 1974, home producers took only 53 per cent of the total market for milk and dairy products compared with 59 per cent in 1973; for dairy products alone, our share fell from 39 to 32 per cent. These figures by themselves demonstrate the sorry state into which the industry has fallen. With the aid of the subsidy, consumption of liquid milk increased by 2.8 per cent in 1974/75 over the previous year. However, as a result of the decline in milk supplies and these higher liquid sales, the quantity of milk available for manufacture fell by 7½ per cent at a time when demand for dairy products had never been higher. Within this overall figure, the fresh cream market expanded by over 8 per cent and we were able to increase our make of cheese by 21 per cent; there was a small reduction in manufacture of preserved milk products but the brunt of the loss was borne by butter, for which our throughput declined by 45 per cent. In fact, in the United Kingdom as a whole last year, home production of butter was scarcely enough to satisfy 10 per cent of national consumption.

The outlook for consumption this year, with inflation increasing and unemployment rising, must remain uncertain. We are, of course, still awaiting clarification from Government of their proposals for reducing consumer subsidies. We know that they are very much aware of the industry's wish that any removal of subsidies should be carried out on a gradual basis but it is perhaps appropriate for me to reiterate the need for this if the industry's marketing arrangements for subsidised products are not to be gravely disturbed. On the latest figures, it looks as though the markets for liquid milk and fresh cream have become less buoyant as a result of recent price increases, whilst the demand for cheese and butter seems to have levelled off at last year's high levels.

At the present time, the market supply situation for cheese is the cause of some concern. Last year, production was expanded sharply throughout the Community to meet rising

consumption and the sudden demand from the United States resulting from the opening of additional quotas there. The clampdown by the American authorities on imports this year, possibly combined with a slower growth in consumption within the Community, has led to a reduction in outlets to which some suppliers have been slow to react. As a result, there has been some accumulation of stocks which, we fear may be dumped on the United Kingdom market at whatever prices the cheese will fetch. Already there has been a sharp drop in the price of most European cheddars relative to the home market. The Board are keeping a very close eye on these developments and will take whatever action is necessary to retain our position against this probable invasion of our market.

The skim powder market in the Community is also giving rise to some comment as a result of the increase in intervention stocks. At the outset, I would emphasize that there is no mountain of skim powder in the United Kingdom; the holdings of our intervention agency are equivalent to only a few weeks' consumption. However, in the rest of the Community, stocks have mounted, at least in part because of the restrictive policy on aids for powder used for animal feeds and the slow response to changing price levels on the international market. There is no lack of markets for this powder. Requests for food aid have amounted so far to more than 200,000 tons against a provision of less than 44,000 tons made this year. Suggestions have also been made for expanding sales to various outlets within the Community. Policy decisions to dispose of some of these stocks are now urgently required, for buyers in third countries are postponing orders in the belief that prices will fall shortly. Commercial confidence will only be restored when there has been some stock reduction. Until then, this hand-to-mouth buying policy will force manufacturers to sell powder into intervention, thus adding to the Community's problems.

THE BOARD

I am very well aware that in recent years the national and international problems surrounding our industry have been of such importance that in this address I have been unable, without speaking for much too long, to talk about the many other activities of your Board. This does not mean that there is not much to be said about the Board which continues to progress despite the many problems and difficulties that face any substantial organization at this time. Our Annual Report contains a detailed account of the Board's activities during the year under review and I particularly commend to those closely interested in the industry the tables of statistics which appear on the last 5 pages. I very much hope that by next year we shall have a sufficiently stable national and international marketing situation to enable me to revert to some discussion on the domestic affairs of the Board.

In all the difficulties that have beset us and our producers during the year, our staff have once again worked with great efficiency and enthusiasm to ensure our success. May I convey my personal thanks and those of milk producers generally to all of them?

In thanking the staff, one immediately thinks of Clifford Garnham who retired a few weeks ago after more than 41 years with the organisation and some 11 years as Managing Director. When Mr Garnham took over, the Board was passing through a fairly rapid period of development and expansion and we had to do this without losing our reputation for good administration and scrupulous management. Clifford Garnham was most certainly the right man at the right time. We are most grateful to him for a job well done and will miss him personally after a long and successful association.

In his place I am pleased to welcome James Morton as our new Managing Director. He has had a wide experience of many aspects of the Board's operations since he first became a member of the staff in 1950 and is well known already throughout agriculture, and dairying in particular. We wish him well.

Once again, I should also like to thank all those outside the Board's immediate employment who have helped us in so many ways throughout the year. Particularly, members of our local committees give much of their valuable time to assist us and provide most useful advice. May I also express my personal thanks to all the Members of the Board for their valuable support and help to me during the year. Particularly I should like to express my great appreciation of the work of Mr James Jackson during his 24 years' service on the Board, the last 17 of them as my Vice-Chairman. Throughout that time he has never spared himself in his efforts on behalf of milk producers and their Board.

The strength of our organisation is founded on the co-operative will of our 58,000 producers and on our determination to act wisely, not only in their interests but for the benefit of our customers; the consumers of this country. Now that we are finally committed to membership of the European Community, we shall continue to co-operate even more closely with the people and organisations concerned with European agriculture, and particularly dairying. Within the United Kingdom it is encouraging to find a growing agreement on the broad issues between ourselves and the Dairy Trade Federation. These joint industry views, when allied to the strength and co-operation of the National Farmers' Union and of the other United Kingdom Milk Marketing Boards which we continue to enjoy, provide a strong, stable and responsible collective experience to which Government and others, both within the United Kingdom and overseas, must give great weight.

It is sometimes said that one of the faults of farmers is that they cry wolf too often. The core of our determination to act wisely, not only in their interests but for the benefit of our customers; the consumers of this country. Now that we are finally committed to membership of the European Community, we shall continue to co-operate even more closely with the people and organisations concerned with European agriculture, and particularly dairying. Within the United Kingdom it is encouraging to find a growing agreement on the broad issues between ourselves and the Dairy Trade Federation. These joint industry views, when allied to the strength and co-operation of the National Farmers' Union and of the other United Kingdom Milk Marketing Boards which we continue to enjoy, provide a strong, stable and responsible collective experience to which Government and others, both within the United Kingdom and overseas, must give great weight.

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